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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2011

## STREET THEFT IN BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE FOLLOWED AN ASSAULT

# Man stole phone from 'defenceless' woman - COURT IS TOLD

A YOUNG woman who was assaulted in the centre of Bridgend, had her mobile phone and some of the contents of her handbag stolen, as she lay defenceless on the ground.

The man responsible for the theft, Cory Brice (18), was sent to a young offender institution for six months at Cardiff Crown Court.

At the time, Brice, of no fixed address, was on bail for shoplifting.

He had admitted a charge of theft before Vale Magistrates and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Gareth Evans said that it was about 8.30pm on August 16, when the young woman walked to a supermarket in the centre of Bridgend, and in Brewery Lane, she saw a group of people, including the defendant, on a traffic island.

### REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

She remonstrated when she saw one of them pushing a girl towards the road, and was met with aggression and abuse.

Mr Evans said that one of the group struck the young woman to the face, causing her to fall to the ground.

"While she lay there supine and defenceless, Brice stole her mobile phone and a packet of cigarettes. She managed to get to her feet and reported the matter to staff at Tesco's."

Shortly after, said Mr Evans, Brice and two others were arrested.

Before being arrested, he said, Brice had to be dragged from a nearby garage struggling. Interviewed, he replied: "No

comment" to most questions.

He was said to have previous convictions for eight offences of theft, and for assaulting a security officer at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Martin Kelly, defending, said: "His parents are extremely concerned at his behaviour. He got in with a bad group of young people when he went off to live alone."

"He was not responsible for any of the violence, but I have to accept that it was a nasty, mean theft."

Judge Isabel Parry said: "For a man of your age, you have quite a long record. At the time of this offence you were on bail for shoplifting."

"You took advantage of someone who at the time had been disabled. She had done nothing to bring such behaviour upon herself. At the time, you were drinking two flagons of cider a day."

## Awards for the 'Prince of Wales' at Kenfig Hill



THE above picture shows Gareth Maund, landlord of the Prince of Wales public house at Kenfig, showing some of his regulars the valedictory certificate that he received from the RAF, thanking him for his help when investigators were in Kenfig after a plane crash that claimed the lives of two instructors and two young air cadets.

(Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

## Feastival fun in Bridgend

VISITORS to Bridgend's Food Festival can take part in the great Leaning Tower of Pizza challenge, racing against the clock to build the tallest pizza box tower and win a prize.

The event will be staged in Dunraven Square from 10.30am-6pm this weekend, including leek lobbing, the Bridgend egg drop and waiters on stilts.

The Festival also hosts Britain's Got Talent toast and marmite artist Nathan Wyburn and there will be market stalls and cooking demonstrations.

## TRAGEDY AT THE ELVIS FESTIVAL AS A MAN DIES



Flowers have been laid at the scene of the death of a 53-year-old man. He was reported to have been found at the foot of the wall.

POLICE in Porthcawl say that they are not treating the death of a 53-year-old man as suspicious, after he was found at the foot of a wall near the Esplanade.

The body of the man, reported to be from Treherbert and thought to be in town for the Elvis Festival, was discovered at 11pm on Saturday, September 24.

The wall was near the Pier Cafe, and the

police statement said that they were investigating the incident, but that it was not being treated as suspicious. The coroner has been informed.

Flowers have been laid at the scene.

## Festival goes ahead

PORHCRAWL'S summer music festival, which fell victim to a stormy Sunday in August, is being re-staged this weekend - at an indoor venue.

The event, sponsored by the town council, will take place at the Hi-Tide Inn this Sunday, October 2.

The Mayor of Porthcawl, COUN Barbara Stubbs, said: "The summer music festival was a free, open-air event, and we are grateful to the Hi-Tide for giving the performers a chance to play."

She added: "Entrance is free and it starts at 1pm."

The line up of acts is as follows: 1pm-1.30pm - The Sker Krows; 1.40pm-2.50pm - Porthcawl Rock Club; 3pm-3.30pm - High Demand; 3.40pm -4.40pm - Rider; 4.50pm-5.20pm - Sassie; 5.40pm-6.10pm - Red Room Therapy; 6.20pm-7pm - Love Handels.

## Owner of dog that killed sheep sought by the police

POLICE are appealing for help to trace the owner of a lurcher dog thought to be responsible for the death of eight pedigree Dorset Horn sheep.

Officers are asking anyone who was in the Corn town and Brocastle area between 6pm on Monday, September 19, and 10am on Tuesday, September 20, and saw someone walking a large lurcher cross, black and white in colour.

PC Mark Goulding the Wildlife and environmental crime officer for the Vale, said: "This is a tragic incident for the owner of the sheep, who had raised the animals since they were lambs."

"I would like to remind all dog walkers that they are responsible for the control of their animals while out in the countryside."

He added that failing to keep dogs under control in a public place, and allowing animals to worry livestock, could result in a court appearance and a heavy fine for the owner.

It was later stated that a lurcher had been seized after causing problems on the A48 near Brocastle.

Contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## AM has questions about Porthcawl

A LOCAL regional AM has concerns about Porthcawl regeneration and has written to the BCBC chief executive. (See page 10).

## THE MARKET PLACE

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Chicken, salt pork and Parma ham terrine, homemade pickled and roasted bread. 5.25  
Roastie with onion and rapeseed. 5.25  
Roast scallops with mixed pea purée, black pudding and Parmesan. 8.95  
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Loin of cod, mashed potato, carrots, feta and sauce Vierge. 14.75  
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Roast tomato risotto with artichokes and courgette finished with goats cheese. 18.95  
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Cheesecake and caramel creme brulee, hazelnut and date puree with buttery shortbread. 4.75  
Pickled plough and leek spring with sauce Anglaise and coconut ice cream. 6.35  
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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## PCSO gets life!

**MANY congratulations to our popular PCSO Jon Howe, on his recent marriage to Lottie, a young lady he met when working in Cheltenham.**

I am told that Jon was escorted by several colleagues to make sure that he got to the wedding on time, in the perfect setting of the Manor House at Eastwood Park in Fairfield, Gloucestershire. This was followed by a honeymoon in Thailand.

## School news

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:**

**Kieran Thompson – Class 1, Jude Abraham-Jones – Class 2, Ola Kruk – Class 3, Emily Walters – Class 4, Olivia Magness – Class 5, Kian Thomas – Class 6 and Connor McCarthy from Class 7.**

The headteacher's award went to Callum Jenkins. Congratulations also to Calvin Gorringer, Lauren Howe, Chloe

Harding, Charlotte Edwards, Rico Downing, Phillip Burnell, Hannah Lewis, Joshua Urch, Codi Pritchard, Lucy Clark and Ethan Avery for Mr Goldsworthy for lunch.

**Class assembly –** Tomorrow (September 30) Class 5, with their teacher Mrs N Jones, will be performing their assembly in the school hall starting at 10.15 am. Parents, grandparents, family and friends of the pupils taking part are welcome to attend and stay for refreshments after the performance.

**Music maestros –** Congratulations to three pupils, Senem Alipinar – (viola), Charlotte Roberts and Lucy Clark (both violinists) who are going to the Bridgend County Orchestra.

**Eco-schools –** Many of the pupils have shown an interest in 'adopting an animal' in order to provide help to an animal in danger of extinction.

To do this they are hoping to collect a voluntary contribution of £1 per pupil during their Eco week, so that each class can choose an animal that they would like to help and to protect.

**Inter school matches –** On September 16, the school were hosts to Litchard Primary

School at netball and rugby. The A rugby team produced a brilliant performance, scoring 12 tries. Luke Dingle and Leon Jones were outstanding with four tries each. Callum Lewis scored two with Louie Flower and Phillip Burnell scored one apiece.

Luke Dingle was also in fine kicking form, converting all 12 tries. Unfortunately, the B team were not quite so successful, losing their game by three tries to one, scored by Cameron Jenkins.

The school also played a C game, which they lost by six tries to nil. However, with it being their first game this year, they are confident that the teams will develop as the season progresses.

The A, B and C netball teams didn't start their season at all well, with all three losing their matches. The A team played really well and were up 6-4 at half time. However, with a minute to go and the score at 8-8 Litchard went ahead 9-8.

The school fought back to level the scores, only to lose in the dying seconds 10-9.

Player of the school was, Senem Akpinar. Imogen Davies played well for the B team, as

they lost 6-0 and although Taryn Matthews stood out for the C team, they also lost 5-0.

## Choir concert

**KENFIG HILL and District Male Voice Choir recently made their sixth visit to Selby Abbey, a church which has served the community around Selby, a small Yorkshire town, 12 miles south of York, for over 900 years.**

Their first visit took place in 2001, just four days after the tragic events of 9/11, when the choir were privileged to lead a minute's silence for the victims and their families, a silence that was broken by the choir singing the American Trilogy.

It was planned that the choir would mark the 10th anniversary by again holding a minute's silence.

However, the events at Gleision Colliery, Pontardawe, called for the programme to be changed. Compere Tony Mullins, asked the crowded Abbey to stand and observe a minute's silence for the four miners who lost their lives.

This time the silence was broken by the choir singing Y Trangnefeddwyr (The Peacemakers). The words by Waldo Williams reflected his feelings when watching the 1942 Swansea Blitz during the last war.

Under the baton of musical director, Philip Juliffe, and with accompanists Andrew Chincock and Beryl Evans, the organisers described the concert as the best of the six visits, and promptly extended an invitation to return in 2013.

## Wellbeing Centre

**ACTIVITIES TO BE held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales on Wednesday, October 5, in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road – creative writing with Val from 1pm-5pm and an information service with Karen from 1pm-3pm.**

There is also a general social afternoon from 1pm-5pm, when everyone is welcome to enjoy a relaxed afternoon in a friendly environment, with a cup of coffee or join in the various activities provided.

## Pisgah Chapel

**WELL done to the Pisgah Ladies fellowship for raising a very praiseworthy £209 for Macmillan Cancer at their coffee evening held in the Talbot Community Centre last week.**

Karen Evans, on behalf of the ladies fel-



## COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

lowship, thanked Richard Sims, Cheryl Butcher and Gina Hooper for not only accommodating them while their kitchen was out of commission, but also for the help given on the evening.

Harvest thanksgiving and the harvest supper, due to take place on October 6, has been postponed. A new date will be confirmed in the near future.

For details of activities, telephone either Rhian on 01656 744722 or Karen on 01656 740684.

## Warning to parents

**MYNYDD CYNFFIG Infants School is requesting all parents to hold their children's hands when leaving the park and walking past Express Motors.**

Drivers from that company have expressed concerns that children have been running out into the path of the buses and also walking behind the buses as they are reversing.

**Table top sale –** The PTA is holding a table top sale on Saturday, October 1. Tables are £5 and can be booked by contacting Emma Law or by calling into the school office. If you have any cardboard kitchen roll centres, the PTA is collecting them for art and craft.

## Psychic Evening

**KPC YOUTH would like to thank Helena Stenner and the six psychic colleagues she organised, for working hard throughout the psychic evening doing readings, and also staff at Pyle RFC for their help and assistance in making the night a great success on September 16.**

Pyle Rugby Club was packed and thanks to everyone who supported the evening, took part in the bingo and quiz and making it an enjoyable evening. The money raised for the KPC Youth was in the region of £550.

**Curry Night –** KPC Youth is organising a charity evening at 'The Tap' in Pyle on November 6. Tickets can be obtained from KPC or The Tap, and are priced at £10, which will include curry and gateau and top Karaoke entertainment.

To contact KPC Youth, telephone 01656

749219/745399.

## Community Watch

**AT the recent PACT meeting held at the Pyle Life Centre, the following issues were discussed:**

**Anti-Social behaviour –** There are ongoing ASB problems with youths in the street in Haulfryn, Kenfig Hill and with youths stone throwing in the Black Path Woods, Pyle.

**Scramblers –** There have been problems with scrambler racing around the Woodland Park and Waunbant Road area of Kenfig Hill at weekends.

**Parking –** There were complaints about delivery lorries causing traffic build-up when delivering to Wickhams in Marlas Road, Pyle.

Once again, there are parking problems on zigzag and double yellow lines outside schools since they have returned from the summer holidays.

The police say that parking tickets will be issued to offenders, so be warned!

**Traffic issues –** There is an on-going issue of speeding on Marlas Road, Pyle, and a complaint was made about HGVs travelling along Marshfield Avenue, Pyle, as well as parking and speeding in that road.

Both these issues are being looked into. A speeding survey has been arranged by Coun Huw David, for the area of Cwm Foes, Cefn Cribwr.

**Litter –** There were many complaints about litter being dropped by youths in gardens and in the street after visiting the shop in Marlas Road, Pyle.

There will be regular updates on the above; however, if you have any concerns of information regarding these or any other issues, call PCSO Jon Howe on 07805 301491 in confidence.

## Storm drainage

**FOLLOWING approval between the relevant local authority and statutory bodies, Lovell Partnerships are now able to complete the installation of the storm drainage work on Evans Street, Kenfig Hill.**

The work will commence on October 3 and



PCSO Jon Howe and his bride, Lottie

will take approximately two weeks to complete, during which there will be temporary traffic lights and restricted parking in Evans Street.

Site manager Chris King said that they would ensure that disruption would be kept to a minimum and that access and egress would be respected where possible.

**Trampoline demonstration**  
A VERTIGO Trampoline Club takes place at Bridgend Recreation Centre on Sunday, October 2, when members perform their best routines. Tickets cost £2.50 per adult, children admitted free.

## Business guru to lecture in Bridgend

**THE local business community will be addressed by Lord Digby Jones at Bridgend College, when it launches its newly-named business training department – Engage Training – on October 24.**

It will be the first business networking event held by Engage Training, explained Andrew Whitcombe, director of skills and business development.

"This will be the first of many business networking events. We wanted to celebrate the brand new look of the department, and what better way than to get Lord Digby Jones here to celebrate with us?"

Lord Jones will speak on 'Business development through economic growth'.



Lord Digby Jones.



Megan Hill, Elizabeth Jenkins, Kayla Smith and arts development officer Guy O'Donnell with their sculpture of Paralympian Tanni Grey Thompson.

## Children's sculptures of their sporting heroes

**BRIDGEND County Borough Council's arts and community development department supported this year's Play 4 Life summer activities with free sculpture workshops for 8-12 year olds.**

As part of the 'Following the Flame' Olympic exhibition, six venues across Bridgend held workshops to construct famous Welsh Olympian and Paralympians, using different forms of art. The finished articles will then be displayed from October onwards in Bridgend Recreation Centre.

One of the week-long workshops was held at Maesteg Sports Centre, where the children created a sculpture of Welsh Paralympian Tanni Grey Thompson. Other sculpted athletes included Olympic long jumper Lynn Davies, Paralympic cyclist Simon Richardson and Paralympic equestrian dressage rider Nicola Tustain.

Guy O'Donnell, arts and development officer, said: "The children had a great week in Maesteg Sports Centre learning about Paralympian Tanni Grey Thompson and the Paralympics in general. The children worked extremely hard on this and what they achieved is fantastic."

**HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL OCTOBER 6)**  
The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
29 Thur	09.13	10.6	21.35	10.8
30 Fri	09.59	10.6	22.17	10.4
01 Sat	10.41	10.1	23.03	9.8
02 Sun	11.23	9.5	23.48	9.2
03 Mon			12.07	8.8
04 Tues	00.39	8.4	13.11	8.3
05 Wed	01.46	7.7	14.31	7.9
06 Thur	02.22	7.5	16.02	7.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



## CROWN COURT ROUND-UP with AJ SICLUNA

# Man jailed for sex offences

**WITHIN moments of being arrested on suspicion of committing a series of sex offences, a Cymmer man told the police "I know what it's about and I'm guilty".**

At Cardiff Crown Court, 43-year-old Raymond Evans of Bryn Coed was jailed for three and a half years. He admitted five charges of indecent assault.

Prosecutor Jason Howells said the assaults took place in the 90s and involved two girls.

Mr Howells said the offences came to light when one of the girls disclosed that she had been interfered with by the defendant when she was much younger.

He had touched her, he said, over and under

her clothing. The second girl, said Mr Howells, had been indecently assaulted in a car and Evans had told her: "You're enjoying that, aren't you?"

When he was arrested in January, Evans said: "I know what it's about, and I'm guilty. I don't think I need a solicitor. I know what I have done."

"I'm glad it's come to light, because it's been killing me."

He told the police he felt upset and disgusted with himself.

He apologised and said he had tried to take his own life.

Martin Kelly, representing him, said: "He is a simple man, and the offences took place a long time ago. There has been a medical investigation."

"He has now put himself in order as much as he can. There was nothing less than immense

remorse."

Mr Kelly said Evans told him he had to live with what he had done for some 15 years.

He had also said: "If the girls say that's what's happened, it happened."

Mr Kelly said that under no circumstances had he wanted the girls to give evidence in court.

Mr Justice Roderick Evans told him: "The girls were young and you touched them inappropriately over and under their clothes."

He added: "There is no doubt that you feel genuine remorse for what you did, and you will receive full credit for that. I have no doubt that only prison is appropriate."

He was ordered, upon release, to register as a sex offender for life.

## Second chance for Pencoed man (21) after drugs arrest

**BY becoming involved in drugs, a steel works clerk, who had no previous convictions, had put himself, his job, and his family life in jeopardy, said a judge at Cardiff Crown Court.**

Thomas O'Brien, 21, of Bryn Rhedyn, Pencoed, pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing mephedrone with intent to supply.

The court heard the drug was known colloquially as 'meow meow'.

He was sentenced to a community order for a year and ordered to carry out 180 hours unpaid work and to pay costs of £340.

The drugs were ordered to be forfeited and destroyed.

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones told him: "This was stupid, wasn't it? If you sat where I sit, you would see the effects drugs have on people and you would never touch drugs in your life."

"You put yourself, your job and your family life in jeopardy." Stay away from drugs."

He said it was unnecessary to impose a custodial sentence.

Prosecutor John Probert said that on March 19, O'Brien was spotted with a group of men in a beer garden at The Roof public house in Bridgend.

Security staff thought they were acting suspiciously and searched two of them, one was the defendant. A pack-

age containing seven small wraps of mephedrone fell from one of his shoes.

He was arrested, and when his home was searched, 18 wraps of the drug were found in his bedroom.

His mobile phone was examined, and a text read: "Adam wants a thingy if you have one."

He told the police he bought the drugs, but had not intended supplying them.

Claire Wilkes, his barrister, said he had never been before the court before.

"He was foolish to become involved in the drugs scene. He has stopped taking drugs, and fortunately, there is another side to him."

She said he was hard-working, and was responsible for paying the mortgage on the family home. "He assures me he won't be back in court," she said.

## Sea festival winners

**PORHCRAWL Sea Festival art competition winners were:** First place, *Isabelle Morris*; Second place, *Jasmine Bowen*; Third place, *Zach Powell*.

The poetry competition winners were: First place, *Max Shears*; second place, *Holly Clatworthy*; Third place, *Sam Hopkins*.

# A RHONDDA REUNION AT PETER AND RITA'S 60th!

PHOTOGRAPHS by  
MALCOLM NUGENT



Peter and Rita on their wedding day.

**IT was a Rhondda reunion last week when Porthcawl couple Peter and Rita Davies celebrated their 60th anniversary.**

The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs and her husband Bill called to congratulate the happy couple, and discovered that Rita, Peter and Barbara had all lived in the same area, and had all gone to the same Rhondda church.

That was some time ago, of course, and Rita and Peter have lived for the last 39 years in Porthcawl.

Peter, a toolmaker by trade, became very ill at the time of their wedding and it had to be

postponed.

In fact, doctors at the time did not give him much hope for a long life!

Now, 60 years later, when asked what they have enjoyed most about their lives, they both replied simply "being together".

Rita's working life included some years as clerk to Porthcawl Town Council, and she checked to see that the 'Chain of Office' was being "kept up to standard".

Peter and Rita have travelled extensively during their retirement, including having been three times to Australia to see Rita's sister Marian, who lives in Melbourne.



ABOVE: Peter and Rita, with their daughter, Helen Littlewood, who lives in Kenilworth, and the mayor and her husband.



ABOVE:

Rita comments on the Mayoral Chain that she once used to look after as clerk of Porthcawl Town Council.

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## Lib-Dem surgery

**WELSH Lib-Dem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding three advice surgeries on Friday, September 30 in Pencoed Library from 2pm to 3pm; Porthcawl Library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm; and Neath Central Library from 5pm to 6pm. No appointment is necessary.**

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# GUIDE DOG GROUP MAKES PLANS FOR FUNDRAISING WEEK

**IN recent years, a dedicated group in Bridgend county borough have worked to fund the training of Guide Dogs.**

**With National Dog Week starting soon, Porthcawl's NORA CLARKE writes about the group's aims.**

In 1931, two forward-thinking British women, Muriel Crooke and Rosamund Bond, sent for a dog trainer from the Swiss American organisation 'The Seeing Eye' and in

October of that year the first four British Guide Dogs completed their training at a lock-up garage in Cheshire.

Now, more than 1,200 guide dog pups are bred every year and since 1931, more than 29,000 guide dogs have been teamed up with blind or partially-sighted people to create a life-changing partnership.

One such dog, Hugo, lives with an inspirational young man called Craig Lundberg.

Craig was serving as a Lance Corporal in the

2nd Battalion Duke of Lancasters' Regiment when he suffered horrific injuries during a rooftop battle with insurgents in Basra, Iraq.

Craig said: "Two rocket propelled grenades ripped into me. I lost my left eye and my right eye has so much shrapnel in it that I can't see."

Determined that being blind would not affect his independence, he applied to Guide Dogs and was teamed up with Hugo, a Labrador retriever cross.

Craig said: "I can get around much quicker now. Hugo is a big part of my life and is more than a guide dog, he is a companion. He's part of my family."

At 26, Craig has his whole life ahead of him, and without Hugo that life may have been very different. However, with his faithful friend at his side, he can go on to achieve whatever he wants, despite his sight loss.

Guide Dogs receive no government funding and operate entirely from donations by members of the public.

The national organisation is helped by 10,000 volunteers, who carry out more than 50 different volunteering roles, such as brood bitch or stud dog holders, boarders, kennel assistants, puppy socialisers, puppy walkers and many more.

When someone becomes a guide dog owner, Guide Dogs make a commitment to provide them with a dog for life.

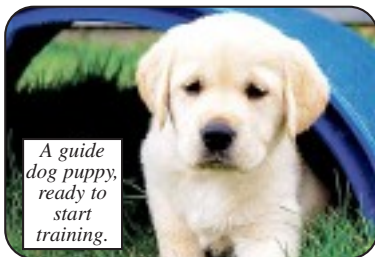
Once people have experienced the difference a dog makes to their freedom of movement, they generally want to stick with it.

Each guide dog partnership involves around 20 months of training and seven years of sup-



Craig Lundberg with faithful pal Hugo.

**SMILE FOR THE CAMERA, HUGO!**



A guide dog puppy, ready to start training.

## PUPILS TAKE TO THE STREETS FOR MACMILLAN



ABOVE: Students from Porthcawl Comprehensive School turned out to do a street collection for Macmillan Nurses in John Street, Porthcawl last Friday. (Photo by KEITH E MORGAN).

## Who wants to build what and where?

Mr David Balcombe – McDonalds Restaurant, Pencoe Business Park, Pencoe – Illuminated double-sided logo sign.  
BCBC Education Department – 25 Mervyn Way, Pencoe – Remove branches of 1 no. oak tree (1986) OBC No. 08).  
G4S – Parc Prison, Heol Hopcyn John, Coity – Lift trees to a maximum of 5 metres to clear boundary.  
Mr and Mrs Paul and Elaine Winstanley – 10 Vintin Terrace, Porthcawl – Alteration and single storey extension to rear, including demolition of existing extension.  
Mrs Ann Milligan – 25 Hilary Way, Porthcawl – Erect 1.8m high fence at end of rear garden to replace 20ft conifer trees.  
Mrs D Judd – 27 Preswylfa Court, Bridgend – Replacement of existing defective roof.  
Mr P Hawkins – The Old Stables, Ty Talwyn Farm, Ffordd y Gyfraith,

Bridgend – Rebuilding of existing barn.  
Mr Matthews – Children's Day Nursery, George Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend – Construction of log cabin.  
Mr Simon Stewart – Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend – Relax condition 2 of P/10/10/FUL to allow the theatre to be used for non-ancillary purposes.  
Mr Douglas Ford – 35 Bridgend Road, Porthcawl – Extension and conversion of existing garage to ground floor bedroom.  
Neath Port Talbot CBC – Mynydd Brombil, Margam, Porth Talbot – Request for scoping opinion for the erection of five wind turbines.  
Mr Damien Pondeve – 27 Heol Waldsassen, Pencoe – Rear single storey extension.  
Mr Peter Lubbock – 48A Heol Croesty, Pencoe – Single storey extension to side.

port while the dog and owner are working together, and many guide dogs still need the organisation's care when they retire. This means that each partnership costs around £50,000.

The first week in October is now known as National Guide Dog week.

A few interested people have come together and formed a local Bridgend branch, which covers the whole of the county borough.

Our primary aims are to raise awareness of the work of Guide Dogs, as well as raising much-needed funds.

Please look out for us. We will be collecting on Saturday, October 8, in Bridgend town centre to mark National Guide Dog week.

There are many different ways that you can support the Guide Dog organisation.

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering should contact Nora Clarke (volunteer guide dog puppy walker) on 01656 786018 or 07776 437565.

## Quiz league posers

**HERE are your 'four for thought':**

1. Who is the Greek messenger of the Gods?
2. In mathematics, what does the figure of eight lying on its side represent?
3. Which Spanish footballer in September 2005 became the first player to reach 50 goals in the history of the Champions League?
4. Who was forced to resign in December 1851 as Foreign Secretary having approved a Coup d'etat in France without first consulting the Queen and Prime Minister? He later became Prime Minister.

**A RUDE (for Quiz League)**

4. Lord Palmerston  
3. Infinity  
2. Hermes  
1. Hermes

## School signs up for new Co-op green scheme

**PUPILS from Brynteg School will be going green today (Thursday) as they raise a flag marking the beginning of their 'Green Schools Revolution'.**

The 'green pioneers' at the school are pledging their support to save the planet now the school has registered for The Co-operative's Green Schools Revolution programme, an initiative which will see practical

environmental studies brought to life inside and outside of the classroom. Mike Ash-Edwards, regional secretary for the Co-operative Wales, said: "There is clearly a huge appetite for learning about eco-issues among children and our programme is designed to satisfy that. "It is packed with free school trips ideas, lesson plans, and green activity ideas to do at home too."



The new chaplain with the Sandville medical students.

## New chaplain takes up his post at the Sandville

**RECENTLY, the Rev Dr Duncan Walker took up his position as honorary chaplain to the Sandville Self Help Centre at Ton Kenfig.**

Rev Walker is the new Vicar of Pyle with Kenfig, and is a local boy. He was born and bred at Cefn Cribwr and before attending university, he went to Cefn Cribwr School and Kenfig Hill Comprehensive School.

He studied at Cardiff, Glamorgan and Bangor Universities, and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in both arts and divinity, as well as a doctorate in historical theology.

Before taking up the Living of Pyle with Kenfig, the Rev Dr Walker was curate at Gorseinon and then Morriston, before becoming Vicar of



Sister Gwyneth Poacher, founder of the Sandville Foundation, welcoming the new Honorary Chaplain, the Rev Dr Duncan Walker.

## REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN

Llanelli, followed by Swansea Uplands, Sandville Self Help Centre.

While at Swansea, his pastoral duties took him to the hospice at Tŷ Michael's Church, Sandville, at 7pm every first Wednesday in the month. All are welcome.

## 1st Porthcawl Scout Group news

## Cubs and Scouts head West for camping week

**IT'S been a busy summer down on Woodland Avenue: A group of 27 Cubs, Scouts and our seven leaders spent a week exploring Pembrokehire from their base in Goodwick.**

There was camping, hiking, canoeing, sight seeing and masses of fun and laughter.

The parents were kept busy with fundraising initiatives.

A big thank you goes to The Seagull's Friday Quiz for the support and generous donation. Our HQ is now a registered recycle collection point for used ink jet printer cartridges. You can bring your old cartridges along any Wednesday from 6pm onwards.

The most exciting news is we have been accepted by NatWest Community Force. This initiative makes awards to local organisations voted for by the public.

A national on-line ballot opens on September 27 and you can register to vote by visiting <http://communityforce.natwest.com/project/1051>. Please help us raise vital funds needed for urgent renovations to our HQ.

The hall is available for hire and we want to see it opened more often for community events.

**CHRIS PUGH-BEVAN**

## Bridgend Bridge Club round-up

**THE top three in the recent Bridgend Bridge Club evenings were;**

September 21 – First, Mary Moore and John Beard; second, David Bowen and David Crompton; third, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler.

September 16 – First, Mary Moore and John Beard; second, John Henson and Terry Dolan; third, Linda Pinnock and Marjorie Morris.

The club meets at 7pm on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall and a warm welcome is assured for both new members and visitors.

A host system is running for those who don't have a partner on Fridays, and a partner-finder system operates on Wednesdays. Full details on the club website – Google Bridgend Bridge Club.



## College student's 'films with a message' will be shown at concert

**TEENAGER** Sophie Williams, from Kenfig Hill, will be making a series of short films to accompany live rock music with 'Sound? 2011' at Bridgend Recreation Centre on Friday, October 7, from 7pm-10.30pm.

This features Exit International and other local bands, in celebration of World Mental Health Day.

A spokeswoman said that the event, aimed at 14-25 year olds, and organised by PROMHS (consisting of local organisations working in Bridgend) and Siaradwn Ni - Let's Talk (a five-year Big Lottery project), will "promote positive mental health well-being among young people through the medium of rock music and film, breaking down the barriers to getting support, recognition, response and recovery."

Throughout the concert, there will be short films made by Bridgend College student Sophie (17) highlighting young people's successes in overcoming personal



**SOPHIE WILLIAMS.**

issues.

She explained: "The films will start in silhouette of a young person telling their own story, gradually panning out to a full frontal shot as the person relates how out of personal struggle there can be a positive ending."

"Young people facing troubled times will listen to other young people who have faced similar experiences."

The message throughout the films is that you are not alone and there is lots of help out there.

"There is always someone you can talk to and you are never alone."

At the end of the films there will be information contact numbers."

Live music will be provided by Cardiff alternative indie rock band Exit International and Bridgend-based bands Colours of One (a five piece alternative rock band), Where is Billy, Stars & Flights, Four Words Later and Station 13.

Supported by Bridgend County Borough Council's The Gathering, Bridgend College, Black River Arts and Hobos, all tickets are £3.

Tickets can be purchased on the night or before the concert at BAYO (112-113 Commercial Street, Maesteg), Bauhaus Coffee Shop (Wynham Street, Bridgend), Bridgend Music Store, Londis Store (Brynolau, Bryntirion), Hobos (Queens Street, Bridgend), Black River Arts and band members.

For further details, call 01656 642688 or visit [www.thegatheringonline.co.uk](http://www.thegatheringonline.co.uk)

## LATEST NEWS FROM THE LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

### WELCOME BACK!

*WELL, the summer holidays are over and it is the start of a new academic year.*

*We hope you all enjoyed the holidays and have returned to school feeling rested and ready for the busy year ahead.*

**MIND THE CHILDREN!** PLEASE, please, please do not drive on to the school campus or park on the yellow hazard lines, while children are around.

We are very concerned that an accident might happen and we would not forgive ourselves if someone, child or adult was seriously harmed.

These are difficult times for everyone, with construction workers' vehicles and staff vehicles using the car park.

If you are the holder of a blue disability badge, then you can apply for a special permit; otherwise, please walk the children into school.

Please also be considerate of residents living close to the school by parking sensibly and not blocking their driveways and street entrances.

### NESTLE BOX TOPS

**THANK you for all your support in collecting the Nestle cereal box top tokens.**

The children really enjoy bringing them in and we have had some lovely books in exchange.

If you would like any more information please log onto [www.boxtopst4books.co.uk](http://www.boxtopst4books.co.uk) or speak to Mrs Tatchell in the Nursery department.

### CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

**FRIENDS of Litchard Primary School (FOLPS) will be running a Christmas shopping trip to Cheltenham on Saturday, November 12.**

The bus will be leaving from outside the school gates at 8am, and returning home from Cheltenham at 5.30pm.

The cost for this trip is £12 per person.

Anyone wishing to go to the races for the Paddy Power Gold Cup day can catch the local bus to the racecourse as the first race is not until around mid day. Entrance to the races can be paid at the gate on the day.

Can anyone interested please send money into school (cash only) please as soon as possible? Seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following children on their superb achievements:** Poppy Bayliss (Miss Duffy) - two rosettes for horse riding; Hari Owen-Jones (Miss Duffy) - bronze level certificate for gymnastics; Thomas Heycock (Miss Duffy) - level two duckling swimming award and a certificate for longbow archery; Kaitlyn Perry (Mrs Gilbert) received a dancing certificate. Lewis Chalmers (Mrs Gilbert) - 5m backstroke rainbow distance award.

Ebony Johns (Mrs Parslow) achieved three swimming awards during the summer holidays - 5m, 10m and 25m; Dai awn ti! Demi Wallis (Mrs Parslow) was awarded martial arts and dance experience certificates. Well done!

Chelsea Stevens (Mrs Parslow) had a brilliant holiday in Dawlish Warren and gained a first and third in the disco dancing competitions and also completed two lengths of the swimming pool.

Ewan Brough (Mrs Parslow) described his holiday in Majorca as "amazing" and returned home with a Diploma 1 in Sjoelbak from the Hotel Club Cala Barca.

Aiden Simons and Iwan Wheeler (6S) and Lowri Howells and Iestyn Thomas (6R) all received certificates for their Learning Log of the Week. Megan Howe (6S) received a Merit Grade 1 theory in piano. Abigail Linfoth (6S) received a Grade 2 merit in violin.

### THANK

**YOU ALL!**

*THANK you for all the fantastic year-1 home tasks we have had in so far! We are looking forward to more coming in over the next few weeks.*

### SIGN IN AND OUT!

**CAN we kindly remind parents that children have to be signed out in the school office if they are leaving the school premises for any reason during school hours.**

If returning to school during the day, then children also must be signed back in. This is so that we are aware of every child that is on the school premises. Thank you.

### SCHOOL CLOSED

**LITCHARD Primary school will be closed to pupils on Monday, October 31 for staff training.**

We are also closed week commencing Monday, October 24 for half term.

### CONSULTATIONS

**PARENT and teacher consultation meetings will take place in the week commencing November 7.**

Your child will be given an appointment time by their class teacher. Please contact the class teacher if this is not convenient.

### WILDMILL

### YOUTH CLUB

**WE have been asked to include the following information by Debbie Bryn Senior Youth Worker at Wildmill Youth Club.**

Opening times Monday and Wednesday 5pm-7pm (8-12years). Costs 50p per session and all new members will need a registration form signed by a parent or carer.

Dance (with Greg Sage) street dance, Hip-Hop etc, 7pm-9pm. 50p or two time credits.

### DATES FOR

### THE DIARY

**SEPTEMBER 30:** France Trip; Year-4 Llancaich Fawr Trip; Macmillan Coffee Fundraiser (infants pm).

**November 3:** Macmillan Coffee fundraiser.

**November 4:** Year-3 Techniquet trip.

## Cadets are bowled over!

**BRIDGEND Municipal Bowling Club have been hosting the cadets of Bridgend Squadron Air Cadets through the summer, with cadets acquiring the skills of the bias and bringing youth-**

**ful enthusiasm to the senior members, on their green at the Angel Street rink.**

With a social evening at the units headquarters in Coity, escorted by Mr Malcolm Jones, a cadet parent and Civilian Welfare Committee member, club president

Christopher-Charles Wright, himself a Normandy veteran, presented the squadron with a cheque for £100 towards the cadet current appeal for funding a flight-simulator.

The donation came from the proceeds of the members' raffle at the president's annual tea party, which this year

held a special significance, as Christopher-Charles intends standing down from his post after a full 60 years of exemplary service.

Receiving the cheque on behalf of the cadets fund, unit welfare officer, Flight Lieutenant Diane Biddles congratulated Mr Wright on his noteworthy contribution to the Bridgend Bowling Club and to the borough and thanked him for his valuable addition to the squadron's funding.

"It is satisfying that the more senior citizens can apply the time to impart their skills to the younger generation. The social interaction between the club and the squadron is gratifying and proves the value of those committed young people of Bridgend," she said.

The Squadron accepts membership for boys and girls joining aged from 13 years (minimum) up to their 16th birthday, for a broad-based training and leisure program of events.

Parents can bring their 'recruit' along any Tuesday or Friday evening at 7.30pm and we are always on the lookout for additional volunteer civilian-staff, parents or ex-service personnel, as instructors or as fundraisers for our welfare committee.

Call 01656 667640 afternoons or at the squadron headquarters on 01656 649092. DB

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# Porthcawl welcomes Elvis fans to this year's festival

THE eminence grise behind the Porthcawl Elvis Festival, Peter Phillips, was amazed last weekend at how the event continues to grow.

He told The GEM: "These days, the festival is far exceeding my expectations when we started it."

"So many pubs and clubs are putting on events that we don't even know about – which is just what we hoped would happen."

He added: "The sheer scale of events put on at the Hi-Tide Inn, for instance, is quite amazing."

Photographs marked 'KEM' are by Keith E Morgan.

Photographs marked 'FS' are by Frank Shipton.



KEM



KEM



KEM



KEM

ABOVE: The long and the short – and the unicycle Elvis!



KEM



KEM



FS

ABOVE: Simon Patrick took the title of 'Best European Elvis'.



FS

Bridgend College students were in the 'busking at the bandstand' competition in John Street – singing Elvis songs of course!



FS

ABOVE: Pete Storm was the 'Best Vegas Elvis' award-winner.



FS

ABOVE: Putting on the style outside the Porthcawl Hotel.



FS

ABOVE: One of the many special Elvis menus available over the weekend.



Ben Thompson took the best newcomer award.

FS



## Local store flies banner to support local Food Bank



In the photograph are Cheryl Powell, public relations, Sainsburys, Bridgend, Coun Jeff Tildesley, trustee, with several of the Food Bank volunteers.

**BRIDGEND Food Bank** has been nominated as Sainsburys Charity of the Year, 2011 and to recognise this support, a new banner was officially launched by Coun Jeff Tildesley, trustee, on the shop front of the food bank 79A Nolton Street, Bridgend.

The banner was kindly donated by Phillip Carter Signs, Brynmeyn. The trustees of the Food Bank have expressed thanks to Sainsburys store manager, Simon Lean.

There is a food collection drop-off point situated

in the store below a further banner. Donations can also be made at any of the satellites.

Bridgend Food Bank is a Christian charity, launched officially in 2010, by the then BCBC Mayor, Coun Jeff Tildesley. It aims to supply three days of food for a family in need, free of charge.

The Food Bank launched an appeal to churches and schools across Bridgend county borough, to donate Harvest proceeds to the charity and the response has been "overwhelming".

The Food Bank will also be present at the Bridgend Food Festival, this weekend.

The Food Bank fed 221 people, including 50 children during August when it received 1,395kg of food, and 355kg came directly from Sainsburys.

There are a number of Satellites around the county, the newest being launched recently in Maesteg, all manned by local volunteers.

Food Bank manager, Gerald Manners, can be contacted at 79A Nolton St, or on 01656 858713.

## Accolade for council's recycling partnership

**BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC)** has beaten stiff competition from two of Wales's largest authorities to be named the country's council recycling champions.

Thanks to votes from the public, BCBC beat Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and Newport City Council in the local authority partnership category of Cylch's Wales Recycling Awards.

BCBC made the shortlist after impressing judges with the recycling performance over the last year, delivered in partnership with May Gurney.

Coun Phil White, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, said: "Our

residents have helped to make Bridgend such a recycling success story and now they've helped us to win this award too - so I would like to thank each and everyone.

"Residents have made a real effort at home to increase the amount they recycle and this took us from being the second worst recycling borough in Wales to one of the best. Now, not only are we the most improved in Wales, we're also the proud winners of a Cylch award!"

BCBC's recycling scheme is also in the final of the prestigious APSE awards, as well as national recycling industry awards edie and Green Apple and the CIPR PRide awards.

## Bryntirion Comprehensive PTA news

**BRYNTIRION Comprehensive School PTA** holds its annual general meeting on October 4, in D Block at 7pm and is looking out for new members and ideas.

The PTA raises funds to advance the education of pupils, in conjunction with the headteacher, teachers and the student council.

Parents or guardians of pupils, past parents (or guardians), grandparents, friends of the school, members of staff, ancillary staff and governors as well as pupil representation make up the PTA.

It holds meetings on the first Tuesday of

each month, during term time at 6.30pm in the teachers common room.

Check with the school to confirm times on 01656 641100.

In June, the PTA had a bag packing day at Sainsbury's, which resulted in £626 being raised for both the school rugby tour of South Africa and the Duke of Edinburgh trek undertaken by the Welsh Baccalaureate students.

Over the last couple of years, over £4,000 was raised for a school radio station, run by the students under the guidance of the media department.

In early October, the PTA plan a sponsored swim which has always been a well

supported. Teams of up to six people swim lengths over a designated time. Each member of the winning team gets a £10 WH Smith gift voucher. There is also a prize for the most sponsorship collected by students.

A school cookbook is also planned, with students and parents contributing recipes. The cookbooks will then be available for sale before Christmas. All students who submit a recipe will have their name published.

**Andrew Thalayasingam**  
(Chairman, Bryntirion Comprehensive School PTA)

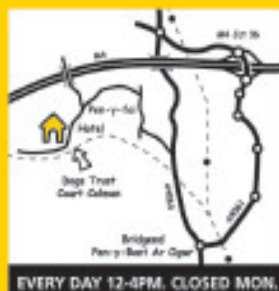
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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## Aberkenfig WI

**ABERKENFIG & District WI has lost two outstanding members in the last few weeks – firstly, Vi Powell whose funeral was recently attended by seven members; followed by Betty Hughes, who had been head of biology at Ynysawdre Comprehensive School.**

She was a member of Tondy and District Art Society, and she always played the piano to accompany carols at the WI's Christmas parties.

Her funeral took place last Monday.

Last Thursday, September 22, members entertained the Link members in St John's Church Hall, Aberkenfig.

The link, which consists of Mynydd Cyffig, Cefn Cribb and Laleston women's institutes, were invited to a social evening with a difference.

Entertainment took the form of a fashion show by a local boutique, Gemini Fashions of Aberkenfig.

The outfits included daywear and special occasion wear. There was also a table with handbags and handmade jewellery for sale.

The next meeting will be the annual general meeting at 2pm on October 12 in the

Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

The competition will be for an item beginning with the letter 'I' and there will be a sales table. New members and visitors are welcomed.

## Choir concert

**CŌR Meibion Cwm Garw** (Garw Valley male voice choir) is again arranging a concert at the Pontycymer Centre to raise funds for the British Legion poppy day appeal on October 15, with the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band.

Betws Primary School choir will also be performing.

## Laleston Gardening Club

**THE annual show was recently held in the clubhouse, and attracted a total of 345 excellent exhibits.**

Considering Laleston is a small community, the display of vegetables and flora was exceptional, as was the arts and craft, photography, and domestic entries. The novice section winner was Patrick Stevens.

The vegetable, fruit and flower trophies and cups were won by Sian James, Sue Ford, Marion John and Aubrey Howard respectively.

The Handicraft Memorial Bowl was won by Sian James; Brian Rule won the

Ethel Hayball Cup for arts and craft; Miss Blandy Cup for Domestic was won by Val Lincez for her first class entries of cakes and jams.

The President's Cup was awarded to Sian James for gaining the most points in the show.

The members thank all who assisted in the smooth running of the exhibition; with a special mention for the 3rd Bridgend Scouts and Explorers who helped to erect and take down the marquees.

## Carol concert

**A CHRISTMAS carol concert is being organised at Maesteg Comprehensive School by the Salvation Army on November 25 at 7pm.**

Also taking part will be the Maesteg children's choir, the Salvation Army band and musicians from the school.

It is hoped members of the audience will donate a toy which will be passed on to the needy children in the area. Toys for children aged 10-15 will be especially appreciated.

## Hedgehog lessons

**MEMBERS of the South and West Wales Wildlife Trust are holding a special event for children, with the Cardiff-based hedge-**

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

*A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:*

*If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.*

*I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.*

**Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL**

**1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ**

**TEL: 01656 725399**

**email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk**



**hog rescue group at Parc Slip visitor centre, Tondy, on Saturday, October 1, between 10am and 12noon.**

This will help the children learn about hedgehogs and there will also be crafts.

The cost for each child is £2 and it would be appreciated if they also brought a tin of cat food for the rescue group. Contact Nicola on 01656 724100.

Parc Slip watch group will now be meeting on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 12noon.

There will be a talk by conservation officer Julian Woodman on the botanical highlights in Bridgend county borough, in Ogmogre Constituency Labour Party social club, Bryntririon, Bridgend, on Monday, October 3 between 7.30pm-9.30pm, visitors welcome.

**School news**  
**TYNRYHEOL pri-**

**mary school has welcomed a new teacher, Mr David Goldsworthy.**

Physical education is compulsory and it is essential that the child's PE kit is in school on the relevant days.

The headteacher has reminded parents to make sure the school has up to date emergency contact details. Last term, the school had difficulty contacting some parents as their numbers either didn't accept incoming calls or were unobtainable.

Parents, governors and friends of the school are invited to the harvest service at Calfaria Chapel on Friday, September 30 at 9.30am. It is hoped that as many pupils as possible can bring in a harvest gift to be distributed to the senior citizens of Llangeinor and Treetops after the service.

The new cross-country season starts on Saturday, October 1, at

Ynysawdre Comprehensive School, on the old Archbishop McGrath school fields.

Races are held at local comprehensive schools, usually once a month. Contact Miss Crowle.

**Free trip**  
**HOREB chapel, Nantymoel, will be holding a free Christmas party trip; children can earn the opportunity of going on this special event by attending seven different Sunday school classes at 4.30pm.**

Telephone Chris on 01443 675424 for further details.

**Annual concert**  
**OGMORE Valley Male Voice Choir recently held its 29th annual concert; the proceeds from which are donated to a nominated charity.**

This year, the charity was a group of volunteers who help the housebound, and the

concert raised the magnificent sum of £500.

A cheque was presented to their secretary Janet Cronin.

The choir started the concert with 'Deus Saluti' and Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah', accompanied by Debbie Lewis and conducted by the musical director Eira Paskin.

The guest soloist, Eisteddfod prizewinner, baritone Andrew Matthews, sang 'Confide in me' and 'If I loved you' from the show *Carousel*. He was accompanied by Eira Paskin, the choir's musical director on the piano.

The choir then returned with Alwyn Humphries' arrangement of 'Plaisir D'Amour' and Valerie Hoppe's arrangement of 'Hafan Gobaith'.

These were followed by the Urdd National Eisteddfod pianist, Ifan Jenkin, playing pieces by Lizst.

The choir were joined by regular soloist, Catrin Eleri Jenkin, singing 'Oh virgins of the heavenly hosts'.

The second half commenced with the choir singing 'This is the moment' from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*, and

then the ever popular 'Calon Lan' with choir member Phil Davies accompanying on guitar.

Ifan Jenkin (piano), guest soloist baritone Andrew Matthews and the choir completed the concert, with Catrin Eleri Jenkin joining them in the 'Gaelic Blessing' and the audience joined in with the Welsh National Anthem.

## Noah's Ark

**A MUSICAL evening is being held at All Saint's Church, Pen-y-Fai, on October 13 at 6pm, with all proceeds being donated to the above appeal.**

Stars of the evening will be the children's choir from Pen-y-Fai, assisted by the male voice choir from Coytrahen 'Bois Goetren-Hen a'r Cylch'.

**37th concert**  
**CŌR Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and district male voice choir) will be holding its 37th annual concert at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, October 22 at 7pm.**

Tickets (£8) can be obtained from any choir member, from Llangynwyd post office, or by telephone on 01656 735305.

## Inspirational Jieying 'didn't drop single mark'



*Jieying at Jesus College, Cambridge.*

**Last week, The GEM featured the astonishing achievement of a Chinese teenager who arrived in the country in 2009 and has won a place at Cambridge University.**

Jieying Luo from Barry, aged 19, achieved four A\* A-Levels while struggling to learn the English language.

Following The GEM's story, Saint David's Catholic College in Cardiff, where Jieying studied, got in touch with us to underline her amazing achievement and to highlight a particular feature of it.

Alwyn Lloyd, the assistant principal of the college, said: "Jieying

came to St David's and studied physics, chemistry, mathematics and further mathematics at A-Level.

"She gained A\*s in all her subjects with the amazing feat of not dropping a single mark in the upper sixth!

"She was also a major contributor to St David's Engineering Scheme.

"The college is proud of the achievements of Jieying. She is an inspirational student and we would like to wish her well in her studies at Cambridge."

Jieying is currently working in Gloucestershire for a company called Delphi during a 'gap year', and will start her engineering course in Cambridge next year.



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## GOODS ARE STOLEN IN BURGLARIES

**LLANTWIT MAJOR** police have appealed to the public to come forward with any information that will help them to track down those responsible for a spate of burglaries over last weekend.

Thieves got away with high tech equipment and a car worth thousands of pounds. Three burglaries were reported in Leigh Close between the hours of 10.30pm on September 24 and 8.15pm the next day.

A fourth burglary was carried out at nearby Boverton Court during the time period.

A police spokesman told The GEM: "During the burglaries, a number of items were removed, including flat screen televisions, an iPhone 4, an iPhone 3, a pink Samsung mobile phone, a Nintendo Wii and Microsoft Xbox 360 games consoles, cash, debit and credit cards, a HP laptop, an

Advent laptop and a Hitachi camcorder. "A car was also taken from one of the properties, after a spare key was stolen.

"The motor vehicle is a black Ford Fiesta Zetec, registration CA57 LCJ, which has tinted windows and a child seat in the car."

Police are appealing for anyone with information to contact them on 101, or Crimestoppers (anonymously) on 0800 555 111.



Suzi Davies (far right) with Andrew RT Davies at the Bakerboy café in John Street, Porthcawl, with owner Caroline Jones (second left) and manageress Christine Ellis Evans.

## Tory leader gets progress report on £500,000 project

W E L S H welcomed by Suzi Davies, regional AM for south Wales west.

Rev Colin Richards of the YMCA outlined the £500,000 scheme, which is due to start in January, and which will see the building entirely redeveloped.

After a brief tour of the building, Mr Davies moved onto the Bakerboy café next door, where he met owner Caroline Jones and her staff and enjoyed a welcome cup of coffee.

Mr Davies was being followed by a camera crew from BBC Wales, who were preparing an item for their coverage of the Conservative Party conference next week and they filmed him talking to Porthcawl residents and councillors.

Among those welcoming the politician to the town was borough councillor Rosemary Deere and former town mayor Mary Emmet Lewis.

### Tails and trails

On Sunday, October 2, there is a chance to explore Kenfig National Nature Reserve and learn about its history and folklore with fun-filled guided walks, hosted by a local story teller from 10.30am-11.30am.

Meet at the Kenfig National Nature Reserve's centre. Admission is free.



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The school is holding its Annual Open Evening for those parents who wish their children to attend Year 7 in September 2012.

Anyone interested may obtain more details and 'The Welcome Pack' by e-mailing [OpenEvening@PorthcawlSchool.co.uk](mailto:OpenEvening@PorthcawlSchool.co.uk) or by telephoning 01456 774100.

Porthcawl is a traditional school with a proven track record of excellence for all. Examination results have been consistently above local and national averages.

Over 83% of this year's GCSE pupils gained at least 5A\* to C grades. (A record for Bridgend County Borough Council).

This is what Estyn (School Inspectors) said about us:-

"Transition arrangements from both primary into secondary and into the Sixth Form are very strong. The outstanding primary/secondary liaison is very well co-ordinated".

"Behaviour is very good, based on self-discipline and outstanding relationships exist between students and teachers".

"The overall provision for pupils and students' personal development is an outstanding feature of the school".

"The quality of the accommodation is good and in some areas very good. The provision of ICT facilities is an outstanding feature of the school".

"The school has a very rigorous approach to bullying: there are very good follow up procedures".

"There is an exceptional range of extra-curricular activities, held mainly during lunchtimes and after school, the participation rates are very high".

### Porthcawl Comprehensive School is a very happy school with a proven track record of success

Situated very close to the coast the school has served the town and surrounding areas for nearly eighty years. The considerable achievements of the school are based upon care, and a disciplined learning environment. Each child is treated as an individual and the school strives to ensure each child reaches their full potential.

Porthcawl Comprehensive benefits from some of the best facilities locally. A recent major investment in ICT, via a virtualised network, has greatly enhanced opportunities for the students. As well as its outstanding academic record the school offers much more to its learners. A national reputation has been developed for the excellence of Performing Arts; many former students are now household names, Rob Brydon and Ruth Jones to name two. The schools sporting achievements are also first class, Welsh Internationals Ryan Bevington and Tom Prydie being the latest to have come through Porthcawl's ranks.

The school's mission statement encapsulates what the school stands for, "All at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are committed to providing a caring, disciplined, learning environment based on mutual respect where all develop their talents to the full".



## Classic car show boost for charities



Chris Major receives a cheque.

ALL proceeds from the annual South Wales Classic Car show at Pencoeed are being donated to charities.

The first to benefit were the Bobath Centre for children with cerebral palsy, which received a cheque for £3,000 and the Heronsbridge School which received a donation of £1,800.

Other donations continue throughout the year to local charities nominated by South Wales Classic Car Club members.

Bobath's fundraising manager, Gail Griffiths, received the cheque from committee member Malcolm Champion on



The cheque is presented to Bobath.

behalf of the children's centre, while Chris Major, former headteacher at Heronsbridge, was persuaded out of retirement to receive a cheque from Heronsbridge student Kirsty Jones, whose father Vince is a member of the club.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of every month and membership is open to anyone with an interest in classic cars.

Further details are available from the club's website at [www.swccc.net](http://www.swccc.net)

## PORTHCAWL REGENERATION: 'Residents hit by double whammy' Tory AM claims

THE shadow regeneration minister at the Welsh Assembly has raised concerns about Porthcawl regeneration with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Byron Davies, who is the Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west, has held two meetings with members of Porthcawl Civic Trust Society and Porthcawl Shout.

Members raised a number of issues with him about the way in which the regeneration process has been handled by the council, and also about the terms of the deal thrashed out between the council and the private landowners involved.

Mr Davies has now written to BCBC chief executive, Jo Farrar, asking a series of questions: "One of the issues which was raised with me was what was happening to the Monster Park," he said.

"I was told that, initially, it had been decided that the freehold of the Monster Park would be purchased by the current leaseholders, but this has changed with the council now buying it themselves.

"I am concerned that BCBC taxpayers are being hit by a double whammy. They are already compensating the leaseholders for giving up the lease on the park, and

are now having to compensate the owners of this land as well.

"This will further bite into the projected profits which the council expect to get from this scheme. I want to know why this change has come about and whether the cabinet itself has discussed it and taken the decision.

"We could be talking of a considerable sum here, as it may well be treated as a ransom strip."

### 'PROFITS QUERIED'

Mr Davies has also queried how much profit the Sandy Bay caravan park made during its final year of normal operations.

"It has been said to me that the decision to close the caravan site was grossly premature, as 10 years later nothing has been done with the land.

"The timing of this closure would appear to have cost council taxpayers dearly in lost revenue from the site. It has also robbed Porthcawl, which is a major seaside resort, of facilities for campers and touring caravans.

"Nothing has been done yet to replace these facilities, which means that the owners of camper vans and tourers may have been deterred from staying in the town, with a loss of revenue to businesses."

Members of the Civic Trust Society and Shout feel that the favourable terms

being given to the current leaseholders to operate kiosks and other elements of the regeneration scheme amount to giving them an unfair commercial advantage over other businesses in the town.

Mr Davies has asked if the council has had legal advice on this issue from either its own officers or from others and if not, does it intend to seek this?

Mr Davies said that as shadow regeneration minister, he has doubts about what Porthcawl will gain in terms of improving its attraction to tourists from this scheme.

"So far, it seems to be all about providing the town with a new Tesco store and extra housing. Neither of those will improve the council's attraction to tourists.

"Where is the swimming pool or leisure centre that both residents and visitors can enjoy?"

Mr Davies added that he shared concerns with council taxpayers who could see their share of the profits being reduced if land values do not recover to the levels they were at in 2006, when the valuations for this scheme were

done.

"I understand that outside valuers have warned the council that it could be more than 20 years before land values bounce back to those levels," he said.

"It is my fear that the residents of Porthcawl will see these key sites sold off with very little to show for it.

"Once the land is gone, it's gone for ever. This is Porthcawl's only chance to cash in on its prime assets and provide itself with much needed extra facilities."


Mr Davies is also concerned about the secrecy surrounding the regeneration process: "If it were not for articles which appeared in The GEM, the people of Porthcawl would still be in the dark about all these issues," he said.

"I congratulate The GEM on printing these stories and pulling aside the veil of secrecy which the council had attempted to draw over these dealings.

"This is public money and publicly owned land that we are talking about. People have a right to know what is happening," he insisted.

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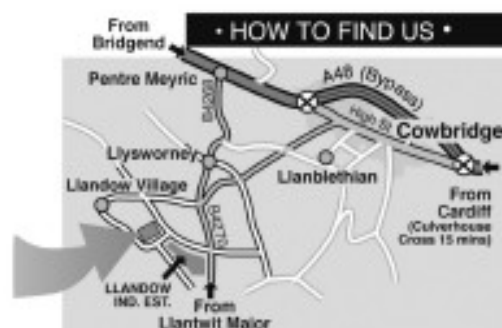
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## OBITUARY: David Matthews, Bridgend

# 'Visionary' farmer's life is celebrated

THE death has occurred of a Bridgend farmer who put south Wales on the map – as the only person to win the prestigious 'Supreme Champion' beef carcass competition for four consecutive years, in the early 1980s at UK farming's international showcase, the Royal Smithfield Show.

David Matthews, who was presented to the Queen Mother on several occasions, was described as "a visionary and a gentle man".

He was internationally acclaimed in beef and sheep production circles and his Limousin cattle set the standard for those farmers astute enough to respond early to the consumer demand for lean meat.

His brother Evan recalled: "David was always proud to think that our successes in Smithfield were the basis for the Limousin Society's claim that the



PICTURED: David Matthews (centre) with the Queen Mother and David Inker at Smithfield.

Limousin was the carcass breed.

"We bought two cows, Femme and Fagoue, in 1971 in the first batch to be imported from France.

"We had first seen them in the Paris show in 1968, after flying out with local farmer and mentor Mansel Hopkin, who was on the council of the Royal Smithfield Club."

David Matthews' reputation was such that in 1988 he was chosen to judge the overall cattle championship at the Royal Smithfield Show, and he also travelled to Australia to judge beef cattle.

Perhaps even more importantly, he supported and encouraged a group of seven or eight Glamorganshire farmers to exhibit at Smithfield, travelling in proud convoy into Earls Court each December and was feted by the show's enthusiastic patron, The Queen Mother.

David's influence in encouraging farmers to

respond to market forces and his success in shows across the UK wasn't confined to beef production.

His great delight was the Dorset sheep breed and again his decision was market-led, buying his foundation stock from the Dorset farmer who had won the Royal Smithfield carcass championship four times in the late 50s and early 60s.

His first lamb carcass championship at Smithfield with a Southdown x Dorset Horn in 1966, was followed by many more triumphs.

He judged the most important sheep competition in the world, the Royal Welsh Interbreed Championship, in 2008, and this year was president of the Dorset Sheep Society for the second time.

He sold in the NSA Wales and Border Ram Sales from its inception in 1978. His Dorsets dominated the breed championships over the

years. David remained a very down to earth, helpful and unassuming farmer with as good a knowledge of the wildlife on his farm as of his stock. The sound of the cuckoo, each fox run, and the songbirds were all important to him.

Family life, too, was important. He enjoyed the lifelong support of his brother Evan and five years ago, at the age of 70, David married Elizabeth and gained an instant family with her three daughters and two grandchildren.

He often recalled the 'wonderful day' when he and his bride were carried in a Landau pulled by a pair of grey horses from the village church to begin their married life.

Elizabeth was a supportive figure at his side in shows and sales in latter years.

David Matthews is survived by Elizabeth and his older brother Evan.

## 'Get in line for the IT scheme' says MP

**THE Vale MP, Alan Cairns, is urging local charities and voluntary groups to bid for technology support from the Microsoft Software Donation Programme.**

"Working with the Charity Technology Trust through their charity technology exchange service, Microsoft is one of a growing number of technology companies who make donations of their products to the voluntary sector," he said.

The technology giants offer eligible organisations up to 10 titles, including the most popular software packages such as Microsoft Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010.

Organisations can receive up to 50 licences of each title every two-year period.

The MP went on: "Over the last two years, a few organisations in the Vale have been able to access the grants, including The Amelia Trust, Valeplus and the Vale Volunteer Bureau."

For more information, visit [www.ctxchange.org](http://www.ctxchange.org) or contact the MP's constituency office on 01446 403814.

## PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

# Walkers wander off into land of Silures

**RECENTLY, on a rather cloudy but muggy morning, Geraint and his sheepdog Patch (who was celebrating his sixth birthday), played host to five Penarth and District Ramblers who turned up to explore the valley areas between Newport and Caerphilly.**

Beginning their walk at Machen, they first crossed the River Rhymney which rises on the southern edge of the Brecon Beacons and eventually makes its way through New Tredegar and Ystrad Mynach to reach Cardiff and the Severn Estuary.

The group made their way to Draethen, which is about three miles from Caerphilly and very proud of its conservation area status.

They then headed to Coed Craig Ruperra nature reserve, an ancient woodland area which has probably existed since 1600.

Reaching the top of the hill, the group took shelter from the strong wind within the walls of the old sum-

merhouse. The earliest evidence of a settlement in this area was between 700BC and 100AD when an Iron Age hill fort was constructed on the ridge of Coed Craig Ruperra, which would have been in the tribal territory of the Silures, who inhabited the Vale of Glamorgan, Gwent and valley areas.

Descending through birch woods the group reached Ruperra Castle, built in 1626 by Sir Thomas Morgan, who was in fact knighted by James I, and it was built in the style of a typical Jacobean courtier's house.

In 1645, King Charles stayed there, raising support following the Battle of Naseby.

Reaching the village of Waterloo, they picked up the Forge Trail, and following the old railway line below a superb stone viaduct, they returned to Machen.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 219102.  
**JOY STRANGWARD**



## Rural transport gets big boost through Greenlinks

**GREENLINKS**, the community transport scheme serving people of all ages in the rural Vale, has announced that after its first year, it has secured more than 350 members, including 40 group memberships.

Launched last summer, the service was introduced by the Vale Council as a pilot community transport project, serving 10 rural towns and villages in the Vale, and is part of the wider 'Creative Rural Communities' project.

The membership-based scheme, operated through a 13-seater mini bus and a seven seat people carrier, aims to help people in the rural Vale to access transport more easily, and at a reasonable cost.

Driven by a pool of volunteers, members are asked to pre-book a service, and are then offered a door-to-door pick up to their chosen destination. Members range from individual passengers to entire community groups, charities and schools and sports teams.

A group of bingo playing friends from Rhoose, who are affectionately known as the Bingo Babes, are among the service's biggest users. Edna, 84, from Rhoose, has been using the Greenlinks service to travel to the bingo with a group of five friends since October.

Edna started using the service when she found it difficult to reach local public transport due to difficulty walking. She said: "I think the Greenlinks service is absolutely fantastic."



*The Bingo Babes!*

"The fact that it will pick me up and drop me off right outside my front door helps me to get out and about. If I had to use public transport to get around, I don't think I would get out."

"I use the service twice a week to take me from home to play bingo with the girls. The Greenlinks bus picks me up and all my friends up, each Tuesday and Thursday, and then takes us back home at the end of the afternoon. If we had to do the same journey on public transport we would have to make a number of changes."

"I can't say a bad word about the service. It is fantastic and I would recommend it to anyone."

Graham Cartwright, project manager for Greenlinks, said: "Since the service began a year

ago, we have seen the difference that this service makes to the residents in the rural Vale, to people just like Edna and her friends, and we look forward to hopefully seeing our service grow again to run more frequently in the week-ends and during the evenings."

The annual membership for the scheme is £5 per household. Members can take advantage of return trips for as little as £2 for a return trip.

All trips must be booked in advance and groups can also hire the service for a half or full day at an agreed flat rate.

For more information on how to become a Greenlinks member, call 0800 2941113 or visit [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/greenlinks](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/greenlinks).

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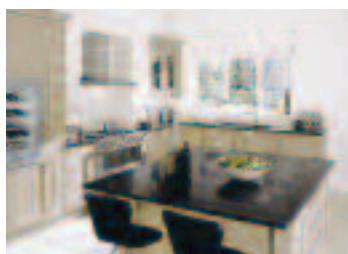
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Local volunteers helped clean the beach.

## Beach volunteers collect up refuse

LAST Saturday, saw 20 Transition Llantwit volunteers enthusiastically collecting up all sorts of rubbish from Llantwit Major beach.

The sun shone as we collected a total of 16 black bags of rubbish, as well as other larger unusual items!

The smaller items consisted of a variety of washed up rubbish such as pieces of commercial fishing nets as well as fishing line used by individuals.

Regarding the larger rubbish, we had a 'contest' running between us as to who could find the most unusual rubbish. Early 'entrants' included a traffic cone, a rather shabby baseball cap, a jumper, a shoe and a couple of toothbrushes!

As the time progressed, we had almost a complete outfit! However, by the end of the two hours, I believe we had a clear win-

ner...a rather large cut off of a wooden veneer kitchen worktop! Who would have thought we would find that at a beach?

Transition Llantwit would like to thank everyone who joined our litter pick at various

points of the day.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, who provided us with gloves and collected all of the rubbish we found.

SAM SECKER

## Filco is on the run, to help air ambulance

THE local independent supermarket group, Filco, has launched a fundraising drive to help the Wales Air Ambulance Service.

Part of that drive will be to enter a team in the Cardiff Half Marathon on October 16.

It will be the sixth year that Filco has entered a team, and each time the funds raised have gone to the company's charity of the year.

This year, the chosen charity is the Wales Air Ambulance (WAA), and Filco director Simon Hunt explained how it was chosen.

He said: "We have a vote among staff in all eight of our stores, and WAA came top of the poll."

"The service does not receive any direct government funding, and relies on public support."

"It costs £5,000 to equip and train a qualified paramedic to join WAA."

Together with running costs, it all adds up to the need to raise more than £5 million each year to maintain the service.

Mr Hunt added: "As in previous years, we would welcome sponsors."

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have supported us in the past, and would be grateful for support again."

Cheques can be made payable to either Wales Air Ambulance or Filco Supermarkets Ltd, and sent to Filco, 19, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, CF61 1XZ.

## Rita's seafaring climb raises charity funds



AT the Tall Ship Festival on Barry Waterfront recently, Cadoxton Youth Project's Rita Limbrick climbed the rigging of the tall ship *Stavros*, going all the way up.

"Our stall raised £190 over the two days. This year the community has raised a staggering £2,172 so far," Rita reported.

"The proceeds will be divided between East Africa Drought via Y-CARE International through YMCA England, Ty Hafan, Barry Hospice for young lives, The Tall Ship Youth Trust, Children in Need and Marie Curie Cancer Care. We are still fundraising and have a number of events still to

come this year." To make a donation, contact Rita Limbrick on 01446 722979.

ABOVE: Rita Limbrick (second from right) with Vale MP Alun Cairns

## Friends of art group seek more members

ART Central Friends' AGM was held last week at the Art Central Gallery, King Square.

After the reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report, the new officers were elected.

Mr Bernard van Lierop, one of the members, then gave an illustrated talk entitled 'Art, Power, Money and Crime' which encouraged those present to "think a little outside the

box". The talk was well presented and suitably illustrated.

The main theme was that people prize art too highly; paying excessive prices for paintings and artefacts far above their true worth.

Art should be for everyone to enjoy.

New members are welcome and membership forms can be obtained from the library or Art Central Gallery.

## College in contention for 'Beacon' awards

CARDIFF and Vale College has made it on to the shortlist for two prestigious Beacon awards, for its innovative and inclusive approach to 14 to 19-year-olds and for its work with tackling deprivation.

The Association of College's (AoC) AQA Beacon Award for college/school partnerships is open to all further education colleges (FE) in the UK who have forged partnerships with local schools.

The CAVC's Vale sites have spent the last seven years developing and improving specific programmes for pre-16 learners. Working with schools, councils and training providers across the region, under the Welsh

Government's Learning Pathways agenda, the number of pupils on vocational courses has rocketed from 150 to more than 700.

The college's Pathways courses allow school pupils to choose vocational courses. A range of college and school based courses are on offer, for example in engineering, hospitality, construction and hair and beauty.

College 14-19 co-ordinator Stacey Long said: "We are the largest and most awarded 14-19 provider in the sector."

Next month a team of three AoC judges will visit the college's Barry site to assess provision for 14 to 19-year-olds. They will meet strategic stakeholders and head teachers from local schools.

## NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

### Technology is advancing!

WHAT are your childhood memories of technology?

My parents told me about cars being so rare when they were young that they would rush out to watch one passing, while dad wrestled with a crystal radio kit just in time to hear "It's all over" when Cardiff won the FA Cup in 1927.

I recall our living room being turned into a mini cinema to watch the 1953 coronation on a 12 inch black and white TV, while at the real cinema I recall my delight at finding the main feature film would be in colour.

I was a science-fiction fan and enthralled by the possibilities of the future. Not so much the wild space adventures of science fantasy, but of the effect of technological development on society.

Arthur C Clarke wrote a fascinating book, 'Profiles of the Future' about the possibilities, while Azimov wrote of a computer he called 'Multivac' that grew so massive in successive models that it couldn't be accommodated on Earth.

It was built on the moon, but still grew so that it had to be built in 'hyperspace'.

'Multivac' implies the involvement of many

vacuum tubes, ie valves, but he couldn't have known about Colossus at Bletchley Park that used more than 2,000 valves, but his imagination could visualise something developing along those lines.

What came as a complete surprise to everyone was the invention of the transistor that went the other way, and became smaller and smaller until the millions of valves in hyperspace are now the millions of transistors on a microchip in a computer small enough to carry.

Now we are offered 50 inch TVs with hundreds of channels and high-definition pictures. They play DVDs,

browse the web and will soon offer you programmes that it learns will interest you; all in 3D, without the glasses. What next? The news says that scientists are busy checking on a neutrino particle that seemed to arrive early and therefore must have travelled faster than the speed of light.

Another report says that scientists can produce fuzzy pictures of what you are seeing by scanning your brain - will future 'Multivacs' (using transistors), sharpen the picture?

The man in the street usually tends to see his contemporary technology as the end of development. In the 1950s,

computers were enormous and hugely expensive. The chairman of IBM said at that time that he could see a world market for possibly five computers.

Things have moved so quickly during the last generation that the one after the one after next will probably look back at us fondly as the equivalent of the flat earth society.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, October 11, when Howard will be looking at golden rules and hints and tips to get the best out of your computer. Visitors welcome.

Visit our website [penarthcomputerclub.co.uk](http://penarthcomputerclub.co.uk)

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# No high heels for Lorraine as she tackles half marathon for charity



ABOVE: Lorraine (left) is in training for the Cardiff half marathon.

WITH the backing of the Porthcawl and District Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Lorraine Stone, the proprietor of 'Truly Scrumptious', the bespoke fashion house in New Road, Porthcawl, is to run the Cardiff Half Marathon on October 16.

She is entering the half-marathon with sponsorship in aid of the GLAZE prostate cancer charity.

Lorraine is already in regular training for the half-marathon and was photographed (above) as she ran past the Prince of Wales public house in Kenfig, to the support and encouragement of some of the regulars there.

KEM

**Charity boost**  
ON October 2 and October 9, Bonmarche, Holton Road, Barry is offering every member of the WI in the south Wales area a discount of 30 per cent off everything in store – hoping to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Charity.

The store will be open from 10am-4pm.  
Contact Sandra or Susan on 01446 739083.

**Zambian choir visits Vale**  
THE visit of the Women's Christian Fellowship Choir from Zambia is an eagerly anticipated event in the life of the Vale of Glamorgan Circuit of Methodist Churches.

The circuit, which covers churches in St Athan, Barry, Dinas Powys and Penarth, already has connections with Zambia through Rev Prof Teddy Kalongo, a minister in the circuit who is originally from the Copperbelt Province.

The 30-strong choir is in Wales for two weeks, and will be welcomed into the homes of families around the country.

The hectic schedule of activities includes a visit to the Senedd, St Fagan's and Amelia Trust Farm, as well as social events and concerts. The choir sings at the Gathering Place in St Athan on October 2 at 6pm, and Crossway Church, Barry on October 13 at 7.30pm.

There will be a collection on both occasions, which will go towards the costs of the visit.

## WHAT'S ON in brief

**Vale Dyspraxia Support Group**  
THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be on Monday, October 3, at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information, as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsg.org.uk, and also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

**Solo-style success**  
THREE local dancers are celebrating their success at the World Dance Masters Championships, held in Manchester in August.

Lewis Jenkins, Rebecca Jenkins and Louise Thorne (from Rhooose and Barry) all became world champions in Solostyle at the annual event, where dancers come from countries across the world to compete for a title.

Lewis Jenkins won

the Division 2 advanced teenage male division and has now qualified to compete in Allstars – the highest division overall!

Rebecca Jenkins won the world champion title in Division 3 intermediate junior female, and Louise Thorne won the Division 3 intermediate open female title; both will now move up to Division 2 advanced for the forthcoming competition year.

Solostyle is a versatile form of dance; and all three dancers have enjoyed success over the years.

Lewis Jenkins and Louise Thorne are teaching Solostyle to 8-11 year olds in Barry every Saturday. Contact

www.solostyledance.com or call 07864 361157 / 07946 396167.

**Penarth artist's exhibition**  
ART Central gallery in Barry will hold an exhibition by Penarth artist Terry Setch from October 11.

A member of the Royal Academy of Arts and the Royal West of England Academy, he creates works that are inspired by the local environment.

The exhibition will continue until November 12.

The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm and admission is free.

## Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D689.

£2,000: 724376.

The rollover, which now stands at £1,000, was won by 627960.

£10: 6 5 4 9 2 6  
667940, 758641, 561149, 808393, 915829, 367025, 865900, 784124, 193985, 444482, 268206, 380535, 787409, 219469, 619300, 833121, 705459, 228866, 375644.

£5: 243806, 495367, 126808, 297621, 588867, 710511, 419391, 702678, 536759, 468092, 723209,

379764, 707244, 383286, 588924, 882532, 217436, 769813, 872547, 232673, 807393, 419174, 481395, 875170, 236595, 609957, 175513, 652911, 766548, 117476, 368596, 224728, 828464, 388474, 891781, 313294, 169701, 482994, 839064, 308876, 266672, 468357, 219049, 903348, 101501, 768413, 354761, 421869, 958811, 844491, 160985, 339966, 641695, 836096, 522822, 107516, 248090, 851969, 329850, 516870.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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## SUNSHINE POWER FOR VALE OF GLAMORGAN!

**R**OOFS in Peterston super Ely have been sprouting solar electricity panels over the summer, generating free renewable energy from the sun.

The solar panels (photovoltaic or PV panels) were installed through a project started by a local group promoting a sustainable environment.

Cyswllt Peterston Connect, started in September 2009 and has

focused on energy conservation and renewable energy generation; improved transport and access, improving and maintaining green space and biodiversity, and supporting local food production.

The solar electricity project began with members of Cyswllt Peterston Connect who were interested in installing solar electricity panels themselves.

They decided to organise this through a single supplier to gain the benefit of reduced prices.

The project was

opened out to all residents of Peterston super Ely and there has been considerable local interest in the scheme.

Starting in August, seven installations have been completed to date.

The attraction of solar electricity is not only that free renewable electricity is generated but also that the government pays a 'feed-in tariff' to householders for the electricity generated.

These installations will now generate a tax free, inflation-linked income for the next 25 years under the feed-in

tariff, with about 7-10 per cent return on investment.

Southern Solar were chosen as the installation company for the project through a careful tendering process that selected on cost, quality, delivery and local benefit for supply of labour and equipment.

As well as best meeting the tendering criteria, Southern Solar had experience in community centred energy generation, and commitment to a local work force and a Welsh supplier of panels.

Rhodri Thomas, chairman of Cyswllt Peterston Connect, said: "We are delighted with amount of interest shown and the take up of this project.

"It is felt that this is an excellent example of a small-scale generation project which, if it was replicated in other villages in the Vale, would make an appreciable difference."

For more information about the project, contact John Drysdale at johndrysdale@yahoo.co.uk

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## POSITIVE IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

### Members are taken on the Indian tiger trail – in Barry

**FOLLOWING a successful practical session, capturing the sunset/moonrise at Barry Island last week, members were treated to an illustrated talk by Phillippa Woods on her journey through Rajasthan on the tiger trail.**

This was an evening filled with wonderful wildlife shots, including one of a particularly excited elephant who objected to being photographed and decided to charge.

Luckily for us, our guest speaker escaped, with the photo to prove it.

Phillippa also took time out to photograph the people and places of

India and showed some unusual aspects of popular places including the Taj Mahal.

Finally, photographs of the tiger gave time to reflect on the uncertain future of this magnificent animal.

New members are welcome at PIPS meetings, which take place at 7.30pm on alternative Thursday evenings at St Baruc's Church, Phyllis Street, Barry Island.

To find out more about our 2011/12 programme of speakers, photo shoots, competitions and Guy's photo-shop sessions, please telephone Bernard Brown on 01446 408483.

ANNE PHILLIPS



Members preparing to capture the moonrise.

### Trust team's help

**A PRINCE'S Trust team from Cardiff and Vale Apprenticeships, the work-based learning arm of Cardiff and Vale College, has raised nearly £250 to help a local educational service.**

The Prince's Trust Team 64 from the Vale spent a week working with ValePlus on High Street in Barry. ValePlus is a local charity that

provides educational, social and recreational day services for people with learning disabilities in the Vale and Cardiff.

The team helped service users with numeracy tasks, computer work, gardening and arts and crafts.

After raising £240 with a sponsored row, the team were also able to take different groups to Techniquet and ten-pin bowling at the Hollywood Bowl.

### Music festival

**THE Cowbridge Music Festival continues tomorrow (Friday) with chamber music and solo musicians, including Cowbridge cellist Mary Elliott.**

It takes place in the town's Holy Cross Church at 7.30pm. Free admission. Donations to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

On Sunday, October 2, there is a Buster Keaton silent film evening at Cowbridge Town Hall at 7pm.

### BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB

**LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club:**

September 20: 1st, Irene Thomas and Jane Brook, 60 per cent; 2nd, Mark Roderick and Mike Close 57.29; 3rd, Kay Dyer and Noelle Bond 51.25; Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick 51.25.

Helen Jordan and Judith Owen won on handicap. New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, call 01446 733425.



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VIRTUS SAPIENTA HUMILITAS

## The success story that began in 1921 still continues 90 years on!

by PHILIP IRWIN

**T**HIS year has been one of celebration

for St John's School in Porthcawl, as the school celebrates its 90th birthday.

It was in 1921 that the Rectory of the historic St John's Church opened its doors as a preparatory school, in those days just for boys.

Quite a few of those boys then moved on to Christ College, Brecon, and the school retains those connections to this day, with a number of fathers of present day pupils being old boys of Christ College.

The guiding principle back in 1921 was to give pupils individual attention – and the same ethos is an essential part of the school today.

There have been changes, of course, often as a result of responding to parents. Raising the leaving age to 16 from 13, so that pupils could stay at the school and complete their GCSEs, came about because parents' expectations changed.

The other big change, of course, was when the school opened its doors to girls and became co-educational. The



ABOVE The St John's pupils pictured in 1922, the year after the school opened.

school now takes pupils from the age of three up to 16.

Carol Clint has been the headteacher for seven years – a teacher for 33 years in total – and fully embraces the school's ethos, which she describes as a good mix of old-fashioned high expectations, allied to a modern academic curriculum.

This summer, St John's pupils achieved

great GCSE results, with 65 per cent of all examinations taken being awarded A\* to B grades.

A remarkable 47 per cent, more than double the UK average, were A\* and A grades, with 21 per cent at the highest A\* level.

More than 80 per cent of pupils achieved at least one A or A\* grade, and nearly 65 per cent gained at least four A or A\* grades.

Carol Clint told The GEM: "I think a key reason is that we have small class sizes, between 10 and 16, and teachers who are happy here, which means that there is a very low turnover of staff.

"Even if a teacher is ill, we have a pool of back-up teachers to call on, who have ties with the school, so that pupils are being taught by someone they know."

The individual attention means that the school make sure that pupils are not missing out.

For instance, Mrs Clint is very proud of the school's programme for teaching pupils with dyslexia,

and the expertise gained in this area means that pupils make real progress.

Recently, the school added two more subjects, drama and PE, that can be taken to GCSE.

St John's also feels it is very strong in its language teaching, and pupils get to start early, being taught French at five, and German at eight.

Carol Clint says that pupils are much more relaxed about learning the basics of a language at that age.

The school draws its pupils from a wide area, and three minibuses are on the road each day to collect and take home pupils from Neath, from Cowbridge and the rest of the Vale, and from north Bridgend and Pencoed.

The school encourages pupils to get involved in other activities, and recently completed a two-year Comenius programme, during which they formed strong ties with schools in Ireland, Iceland, Germany and Turkey.

Mrs Clint said that the school had applied to extend this, as it had been such a success. She added: "The pupils are still staying in touch through Skype and e-mail."

For an example of the pupil's extra-curricular activities, it is worth looking at some of this year's high achievers.

Elan Edry gained 11 GCSEs, 10 A\*s with just the one A, and was also the school's 'Good Citizen of the Year'.

Tom Brown, Laura Clint and Daniel Shearer, who between them gained 9A\*s, 16As and 5Bs, all made valuable contributions to school life in their roles as head

boy, house captain and chair of School Council – and also through sport, music, the Interact club and by acting as role models for younger pupils.

One buzz phrase in the business world these days is 'value added' and St John's believes that it adds plenty of value to its pupils.

Mrs Clint added: "I think we do this through letting the pupils feel that they are part of a small family-style community."

"That includes the parents as well, and they often comment on the warm welcome they receive here, and that they do feel part of the school."

## Can you help St John's world record challenge?

ST JOHN'S School is hoping to celebrate its 90th birthday by gaining a place in the Guinness Book of World Records – but help is needed!

At the start of its year of celebration, the school approached the publishers of the world famous book, and suggested a project that could qualify for inclusion.

However, satisfying the rigorous requirements of the Guinness record team took a little time, and it means that

the school is now in a race against time to hit its target.

Headteacher Carol Clint told The GEM: "We decided to go for the world record for the longest scarf ever made – and to qualify we need to collect 7,000 two-metre scarves.

"For one school, that is quite a challenge, so we are hoping that people in the area can help us out!"

The school can be contacted on 01656 783404.

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# JAZZ FOR THE OLDIES AT PETERSTON – STORYTELLING FOR THE YOUNGSTERS

AFTER taking a breather last year, Peterston Arts Festival returned in a slimmer format, limited to two main productions – one involving a storytelling performance the other a jazz evening.

On Thursday, September 22, a day-long storytelling session was hosted by well known children's author, Cat Weatherill, whose animated style and use of musical instruments, puppets and word games summoned up an evocative world of imagination.

In the last year Cat has performed in Denmark, Kenya, Russia, Ireland, Belgium, Austria and the Netherlands, but on this occasion it was the youngsters of Peterston Junior School who were entranced by her enthusiastic style.

The second event, the jazz evening, was held on the Friday evening (see below right).

## PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON



## STANDING ROOM ONLY FOR INTERNATIONAL JAZZ STAR

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY village hall witnessed a virtuoso performance by international jazz star Liane Carroll on September 23.

There was standing room only on the night and the organisers said they were thrilled with the huge level of support by villagers.

Liane, who has appeared as the headline act at the legendary Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, has garnered a number of rave reviews over the years.

As you can see from IAN DIXON'S photographs, it doesn't matter whether Liane is at Ronnie Scott's or Peterston Village Hall, she just loves performing.



Liane Carroll.

## SCOUTS CALL FOR MEMORIES

THE 5th Barry Sea Scouts are planning an anniversary ball on October 8 at Barry Masonic Hall, to celebrate the troop's 60th year in Barry.

Part of the event will be a historic display and reminiscences, and we are keen to contact anyone who has been involved with the troop who might have interesting stories, photographs or memories.

We would also welcome any former members, supporters or families of existing members who would like to come along to what will be a fun evening.

Further information can be found on the web-site – [www.5thbarryseascouts.org.uk](http://www.5thbarryseascouts.org.uk) or by contacting the Group Scout Leader Keith McIntyre on 07855 463293.

Nigel Vick,  
Barry.

RIGHT:

The festival chairman, Mr Bob Forster, makes an announcement at the Liane Carroll jazz evening.





# TV HISTORIAN PAYS A VISIT TO LLANCARFAN

by IAN FELL

**MORE than 100 people turned up at St. Cadoc's church, Llanccarfarn, during Open Churches Day on Saturday, September 17.**

Some visitors came for a last glance at the ever-more-remarkable medieval wall-paintings, about to disappear until December for resumed conservation behind a web of scaffolding.

However, many were tempted by the arrival of Michael Wood, television's popular historian, who was filming for his forthcoming BBC series on the history of Britain.

Fortunately, the church had a cunning plan to inform and entertain both visitors and the TV crew. Local artist Emma Levey, excited by the painting talents of the medieval craftsmen, had decided to offer visitors the chance to re-create the skills of the past.

The result was *Paint Your Dragon 2011*.

In practice, this meant lime-washing a temporary panel wall, creating large-scale copies of our paintings' characters, foraging for genuine original pigments and then inviting visitors to get painting.



**ABOVE: Michael Wood was thrilled to see 'Llanccarfarn's treasure' for the first time.**

The upshot was that, to the delight of the film crew, the church buzzed with visitors.

At least half of the youngsters and grown-ups were caught red handed – mixing and painting with brilliant reds and oranges, some of which ochres Emma gathered personally from the Clearwell Caves Iron Mining Museum in the Forest of Dean.

"We couldn't have made this happen!" exclaimed Michael Wood's camera crew. "This is a community really bringing history to life!"

As a result, Michael tore up his script, inter-

viewed some of our citizens, and recorded his pieces to camera amid the hubbub of youngsters painting themselves into the past.

Among those involved was the remarkably pragmatic priest-in-charge, Peggy Jackson and Mrs Sally Brereton, headteacher of the Llanccarfarn school. "The fascinating thing," said Mrs Brereton, "is that by re-living the skills of the past, we learn so much."

Very much in agreement was Emma Levey's volunteer colleague, professional conservator Penny Hill. Penny is a prime mover with the re-



**ABOVE:**

*A montage of the different paintings produced on the day.*

created paintings in St Teilo's re-erected church at St Fagan's.

"Look at those drips!" she said with true academic enthusiasm.

"There's a drip just like that on your real paintings, which means that back in the 1480s, they were working with runny paints!"

The present day runny paints, created from egg-yolks, ochres and something called Vine Black-French (glorified soot!), resulted in some notable recreations – which to be honest only served to underline the paramount skills of Llanccarfarn's ancient artists.

In the words of one junior villager: "I never thought going to church could be such fun!"

Michael Wood's new series is to be transmitted in 2012 – and The GEM will be the first to know the date, once the BBC agrees on the title!

The church will be closed until the end of November, except for services or by special request.



**ABOVE:**

*Some painting tuition!*

## FLORAL DEMO

**THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club will hold a meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, October 5, in Ramoth Church Hall, Cowbridge, when Claire Breward will give a demonstration entitled 'Floral Inspirations'.**



**ABOVE:**

*Local youngsters took part in 'Paint Your Dragon' and had the added excitement of being filmed for TV.*





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**Glamorgan GEM**

# Food for Thought



AN AUSSIE GOURMET LOOKS AT UK FOOD

## Top TV MasterChef explains what goes into making an amazing dining experience

**F**OOD festivals are all the rage these days – in Wales there have been more than 30 in the past year, and Cowbridge's is now just four weeks away.

MasterChef's John Torode has spoken about how he manages a TV career, running two restaurants and enjoying visiting festivals around the country.

Although not attending Cowbridge's Food Festival, John stressed that it is often places far from London that excite him the most.

It is currently one of TV's busiest celebrity chefs, with three versions of MasterChef currently on the go.

Blood had already been spilled on the Celebrity MasterChef set, as lingerie entrepreneur Michelle Mone filleted her hand, rather than the fish, in the very first episode!

But that's ancient history to John, who is currently filming the main MasterChef series, set to air early next year.

As the presenter of a trio of MasterChefs (Junior MasterChef being the third) many wannabe chefs have passed through his

by SARAH O'MEARA

kitchens. But despite having presented more than 14 series of the hit cooking show, he finds the search for new talent never wears thin.

"There are highlights within every series. Times when you taste something and it brings you into absolute raptures. And you hope that continues all the way through," he said.

At the moment, the Aussie chef is up to his neck in amateurs competing for the coveted Masterchef Of The Year title.

"Starting a new series, you have the most extraordinary sense of expectation," said Torode, happy to talk, but careful not to give away any revelatory details.

"We're in the throws of discovering the best amateur cooks in the country and there's nothing more brilliant than that..."

And, of course, he and co-presenter Greg Wallace aren't at all picky...

"They have a gift," insisted Torode emphatically about what makes a winner. "In the same way some people are able to play an instrument, with what seems like no effort at all, great cooks have a palate,

their senses are alive.

"It's not just about how things look and taste, but how they feel, their texture, their smell and how they cook."

"It's almost like they've got an extra sense and can harness it to make something extraordinary."

During the past decade, Torode has enjoyed being at the centre of Britain's food revolution.

MasterChef winners have come from far and wide – a reflection of how high-quality cooking has infiltrated every corner of the British Isles.

For Torode, some of his favourite food haunts are way outside of the capital, where he owns two restaurants. "Being an Aussie, I like the idea of being near a bit of water, so for me it's all about what the coast has to offer."

"I adore heading to Craster on the Northumbrian coast, where there's an amazing castle."

"Then you can walk along the beach, end up at the pub, and eat the best crab sandcastle, washed down with a bottle of dog."

"That for me is the essence of local food. And I love Norfolk for the same reason." Torode also spends time in Cornwall, where he says chefs

such as Nathan Outlaw are cooking up a coastal storm.

"You can go wherever you like and you'll find these extraordinary places that are fantastic."

"And it's lucky there are so many people wanting to be chefs, because growth in the restaurant business across the country is so great now."

Currently taking part in London's Restaurant Festival, during which cooks from all over the country will be demonstrating their skills, Torode says he loves the influences diverse food events are having on cooking culture.

"I was recently at the Liverpool Food Festival and it blew my mind. There were 20,000 people being really interested in what was going on."

"It was a great chance to do something we all love: eat, drink and talk!"

Another Great Glamorgan GEM reader competition in conjunction with the Copthorne Hotel



Win a Theatre show, a three course meal and overnight accommodation with breakfast for two at the Copthorne Hotel for a Sunday evening in October or November.



The lucky winner will be entertained by the in-house theatre group who will perform songs from The Magic Sounds of Motown.

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For your chance to win this fantastic prize please answer the following question...

Which of the following is a group from the Motown Era  
1. The Two Tops; 2. The Four Tops; 3. The Six Tops

Answer .....

Please send your answer, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Glamorgan Gem Ltd., 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.

The closing date for entries is 6th October, 2011.

Name .....  
Address .....  
Post Code .....  
Tel No. .... Email: .....

### COMPETITION RULES:

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Roast Topside of Beef & Yorkshire Pudding.  
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## Ryan Gosling electrifies in retro 1980s thriller

**THE** Mickey Mouse Club in America has seen many of its members go onto achieve huge acclaim.

The likes of Christina Aguilera, Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears have all set the world alight as they have managed to amass mainstream glory.

Now, another member of the esteemed club has taken a different path to success.

Ryan Gosling has eschewed the direct route to stardom, instead working on low-budget independent features that have allowed him to blossom into one

of Hollywood's brightest prospects.

Having lit up the likes of *Half Nelson*, *Lars and The Real Girl* and *Blue Valentine*, Gosling now teams up with Nicolas Winding Refn for *Drive*.

He plays Driver, a mechanic and stunt driver who also moonlights as a getaway driver. Despite living a quiet existence off the radar, he becomes close to his neighbour Irene (Carey Mulligan) and her young son.

But when he offers to help the recently released from prison husband fulfil a robbery, things go awry and Driver is forced on the run from those who want him dead.

*Drive* is the sort of film you could imagine some action-mad director like Michael Bay would make, most probably with some lunk-headed actor in the main role with all manner of crazy car stunts and action set pieces -

it would also be, more than likely, a complete waste of time.

So giving the material to a leftfield director like Nicolas Winding Refn was the best option and the result is a minimalist film that is mesmeric to watch, with a great cast delivering the goods.

Those who have seen any of Refn's previous work, from his outstanding biopic *Bronson* to the *Pusher* trilogy will be aware of his ability behind the camera, yet here he is a little more sedate, the film's woozy languid pace matched by Refn's direction.

The opening setpiece, of Driver on a getaway job is skillfully composed and played out, bombast making way for intelligence and clever driving and we get clear insight into the motivations and mentalities of the character. Refn's economy setting out his stall for the rest of the film.

With the neon lights of Los Angeles so strong in the mix, comparisons to Michael Mann here are both predictable and accurate, the film sharing a kinship with Mann's *Thief* and, to a lesser degree, *Heat*.

There is an 80s influence with the neon pink credit text and soundtrack but Refn makes the story feel almost timeless. The sporadic action and violence is both extreme and jarring, the calm of the piece shattered by these moments, but Refn draws maximum impact out of them.

In the lead, it is another flawless turn from Ryan Gosling, whose dialogue may be kept to the minimum but his charisma burns through brightly in a beautifully understated performance.

With his mix of quiet malice and cool, Gosling radiates in what will inevitably be a cult hero in the making. The actor is absolutely superb and he is sur-

rounded by top notch support. Carey Mulligan offers another fine turn and yet more evidence that she is set to become one of Britain's best exports.

Her chemistry with Gosling, all stolen glances rather than dialogue, gives the emotional counterpoint to the masculinity on display.

Bryan Cranston, from TV's *Breaking Bad*, is similarly as good as Driver's boss and confidant, the actor delivering the craggy voice-of-reason role, shorn of stereotype.

Ron Perlman and Albert Brooks, as a pair of gang lords, offer gravitas and, in the latter's case, a chilling malevolence and menace, the comedian showing he is more than capable of doing 'serious'.

Of course, in today's cinematic world of computer-generated action and 3D, *Drive* seems pretty small-fry - but that is the piece's immense power.

Certainly it doesn't reinvent the wheel, taking a story that has been told many times before, but the electric performance of Gosling and Refn's stylish direction mean that the film maintains a degree of individuality that makes it stand out from the pack.

Now let's hope that Michael Bay doesn't try and get his hands on any possible sequel.

## SCREEN TALK



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

**VERDICT:** An outstanding effort, *Drive* is a stylish thriller propelled by Nicolas Winding Refn's skillful and measured direction and Ryan Gosling's mesmerising lead turn.

Deconstructing what could have been a predictable genre piece and infusing it with no little panache, *Drive* is retro delight from start to finish. *Essential viewing.*

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Thief* (1981), *Miami Vice* (2005).

## Skating session

**CLWB Cymru RFS** is holding skating sessions at Colcot Sports Centre on **Thursdays from October 6, 7pm-9pm.**

Skating sessions at Llantwit Major Leisure remain the same, on Saturdays, at 3pm-5pm

## Creative Stitches: winning entries

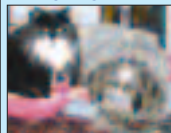
**THE winners of our recent competition for tickets to the Creative Stitches and Hobbycraft show at the Cardiff Motorpoint Arena are:**

**EM Hurst, Bridgend;** Mrs L Farr; Ogmere by Sea; Jo Ping, Llantwit Major; Rachel Evans, Pontyclun; Helen

Hughes, Cowbridge; Mrs C Davies, St Athan; Gaynor Holmes, Boverton; Mrs J Lettis, Dinas Powys; Mim Evans, Barry and Ann Walker, Rhosce.

**Congratulations to you all, and keep reading for more great GEM competitions!**

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Junction of Court Road  
& Llanover Street  
Lorraine - 01446 407002

**Rhoose - 6.30pm**  
Celtic Way Community  
Centre, Celtic Way  
Helen - 01446 750738

**Penarth**  
5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Elfed Avenue Methodist  
Church, Elfed Road  
Sarah - 07525 852288

**TUESDAY**  
Barry - 5.45pm  
Market Street Social Club  
Upstairs Function Room  
Joanne - 01446 404897

**Barry - 4.30pm**  
St. David's Methodist  
Church Hall, Winston Road  
Annmarie - 01446 736534

**Llantwit Major**  
4.45 & 6.35pm  
The Old School  
Wine Street  
Helen - 01446 750738

**Sully - 6.30pm**  
The Old School  
South Road  
Niki - 01446 740394

**WEDNESDAY**  
Barry  
4.45 & 6.45pm  
St. Francis Millennium  
Centre, Park Road,  
Port-y-Castell  
Annmarie - 01446 736534

**Barry - 6.00pm**  
Cadoxton Methodist  
Church  
Church Road  
Joanne - 01446 404897

**Cowbridge - 6.00pm**  
Cowbridge Comprehensive  
Aberthun Road  
Lina - 01656 890708

**Penarth**  
9.30am & 11.45am  
All Saints Church Hall  
Victoria Square  
Tracy - 07894 275853

**Penarth**  
5.00pm & 7.00pm  
All Saints Church Hall  
Victoria Square  
Tracy - 07894 275853

**THURSDAY**  
Barry - 6.00pm  
Highlight Park Community  
Centre, Barry  
Annmarie - 01446 736534

**Dinas Powys - 6.30pm**  
The Cabin by swimming  
pool, Hebron Hall  
Sarah - 07525852288

**Barry - 10.15am**  
St Helen's Church Hall  
Wyndham Street  
Niki - 01446 740394

**Cowbridge - 10.30am**  
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## Dinas comedy

**THE Dinas Powys Players are well into rehearsals for their next presentation Out of Focus, a comedy by Peter Gordon, set in the annexe of a church hall.**

Total confusion and tensions reign throughout until the various parties unite for a common cause - the vicar's wife's annual pantomime!

The production is

directed by Eileen Carryer with a cast of eight members - Nicky Marsh, Hilary Morgan, Deryn Grigg, Graham and Cynthia Russell, Andrew Gibbons, Derek Hooper and Jane Rapier. David Edwards makes another guest appearance.

*Out of Focus* is presented at the Parish Hall, Briwray Road on November 10, 11 and 12 at 7.30pm.

For tickets, telephone 02920 512868 or 02920 512945.

## WALK IN THE WOOD WEEK

**ON October 3-9, local Ramblers are taking part in a national walking festival to encourage as many people as possible to enjoy the delights of walking and to highlight a campaign to save woodland walks.**

On October 3, meet at 10.30am at Dinas Powys village square for a 3.5-mile easy/moderate walk at Cwm George and Park Wood; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On October 4, 10am at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry for a five-mile easy walk at Porthkerry; contact Val W on 01446 734925.

On October 5, 10am at the Blue Anchor, East Aberthaw for a three-mile easy walk at Pleasant Harbour and East Aberthaw; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On October 8, 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile mod/hard walk at Cwm Clydach; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On October 9, 10am at Cogan for a six-mile mod/hard walk at Castell Coch and Fforest Fawr; contact Pam on 029 2011 9102.

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# Out and About with The GEM

**MP's surgeries**  
VALE MP, Alun Cairns, will be holding surgeries on Friday, September 30 at 2pm-3pm, Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys; and at 4pm-5.30pm at Tesco, Stirling Road, Barry.

All are welcome to attend, but it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

**AM's surgery**  
THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Friday,

September 30 from 4pm-6pm at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry, CF62 7EU.

**Cowbridge coffee**  
THE Mayor of Cowbridge will again be hosting a coffee morning in the Mayor's Parlour of Cowbridge Town Hall this Saturday morning, between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

All are welcome to have coffee and cakes for just £2.50.

The proceeds will all go to the Mayor's charities, which this year are Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Welsh Air Ambulance.

**Mind fete**  
THE Western Vale Project of Mind in the Vale will be holding its annual fete at Llantion Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, October 1 from 10am-3pm.

Call 01446 796416.

**Friends' coffee**  
FRIENDS and Neighbours are celebrating Older Persons Day on Saturday, October 1, with a coffee morning at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry.

The event will be opened by Jane Hutt AM, at 10am.

Admission is free and there will be a wide range of attractive stalls.

Refreshments will be available and a raffle will be drawn.

All proceeds of the coffee morning will be used for Friends and Neighbours' Christmas party and other activities.

Contact Gay Fifield on 01446 400044 for further information.

**Rhoose surgery**  
RHOOSE ward councillors Jeff James and Gordon Kemp will be holding one of their regular advice surgeries on Saturday, October 1 at Rhoose Community Hall from 10am-12noon.

No appointment is necessary and all Rhoose ward residents are welcome. For further information, contact 01446 710690.

**Churches celebrate**  
THE Barry churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan hold harvest festival celebrations this Sunday (October 2) at Merthyr Dyfan church at 8.45am, or at St Paul's Church in St Paul's Avenue at 10am.

Everyone is encouraged to bring fruit and vegetables either fresh, or tinned; of all which will be given to the homeless. Services will be led by the Rector, Father Robert Parrish.

**Harvest welcome**  
AFTER a very successful coffee morning for Bethesda'r Fro and Llantwit church funds,

Bethesda'r Fro is holding its annual Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 2 at 3pm.

The service will be taken by Mr Idris Jones and all are welcome to stay for tea, cakes and sandwiches afterwards.

**Barry toy and train sale**  
BARRY toy and train sale returns on Sunday, October 2 between 10.30am and 3pm at Barry Leisure Centre in Greenwood Street.

Now well-established alongside its sister show (Cardiff toy and train sale at Penarth Leisure Centre), Barry's is held each year in February, October and December.

Traders come from a wide area of Wales and across the border in England.

Large amounts of model railway stock are on sale, but die-cast also makes a strong appearance, along with many other items and the keynote at Barry is always value-for-money.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "We look forward to Barry and the excellent venue. There is so much free parking, level and easy access, plus a top-rate caterer on-site for the day, offering choice, quality and value."

"All in all, we can offer a very happy event in a wonderful atmosphere and with some of the lowest admission charges for any such show in the UK."

Further details on 01643 702757 and 07966 694579; website www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

**Quiz night cancelled**  
DUE to unforeseen circumstances, the Barry Town Mayor's Mayor's Charity Rugby Quiz Night, which was due to be held at the Barry Rugby Club on Sunday, October 2 at 7pm has been cancelled.

For further information, contact Barry Town

Council on 01446 704920.

**Total CAOS set to Dazzle!**  
FOLLOWING their successful concert of Disney favourites in July, Total CAOS, the youth group of CAOS, is beginning rehearsals for its debut musical Dazzle!

Set against the fading glitz and glamour of a seaside unfair it's the story of one girl's fight against its take-over and closure by a mean property developer.

The production takes place in February 2012 during half term week and it's not too late to join in.

Total CAOS meet every Monday in school term time at Wick Village Hall from 5pm to 6.30pm and is open to anybody aged eight-18 who wants to sing, dance and act.

Full details are available from the secretary Jenny Hill on 01446 713110 or the chairperson Mel Bruford on 07791303853.



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**Stand by for the Ogmores Castle vintage tractor run!**

THE second annual 12 miles in total. Entries are £10 per tractor and you are encouraged to get as much sponsorship as possible, as all money raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Judging of the best vintage tractor will be held at 10am and the run will start at 10.30am - Ogmores By Sea, Southerndown, St Brides Major, Taircross, Ewenny and back to Ogmores Village - about 16.56 654440 after 6pm.



www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org



**What makes your local pub great?**

**Competition closes this Friday. Last chance to vote!**

It has been well publicised that several pubs are closing in Wales every week - happily that is not the case in the Vale; in fact, many establishments are reporting record business levels.

To celebrate some of the excellent family-owned, or run Vale pubs, The GEM is looking for regular customers to vote for their favourite in our new 'Prize Pub' competition feature.

**Prize...**

A 12 month advertising campaign in The GEM and on-line, worth more than £5,000.

The competition will run during September and the winner will be announced in October.

**Criteria to consider**

Scores on the doors (Vale hygiene awards)  
Food (Home cooked/organic produce)  
Drinks (Alcohol & quality coffees & teas)  
Disability access  
Child activities/entertainment/meals  
Friendliness of staff/welcome  
Garden/outdoor appearances/flower baskets etc  
Innovation & Diversity - new ideas, i.e. offering a take-away service  
Standards of toilets and general cleanliness  
Parking/cab service (will they call one for you?)  
Music/Guest entertainers  
Interiors/Christmas decorations  
Community involvement and charity support  
Green credentials, eg: commitment to recycling of food waste, rain water for watering plants, etc.

**What to do next...**

Enter by email or post - closing date is Friday, 30th September, 2011. You must supply your name, address and land-line telephone number. Tell us, in no more than 100 words, why you believe your local is the best. State the name of the landlord/landlady, pub name and location, and how often you visit.

Send your entries, marked 'Prize Pub' to: **The GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL** or email: [gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk)

**Terms & Conditions**

The five pubs that receive the most entries will be visited by a mystery diner/judge, whereupon the winner will be decided. The winner will be announced in The GEM in October. No correspondence concerning the decision will be entered into. The judge's decision is final.



# Kyle (14) is now St Athan's youngest club champion

**FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD** Kyle Harman's name will always be remembered by present and future members as he is now in the enviable position of being both the Junior and the Club Champion of RAF St Athan Golf Club.

He is the first junior to win the senior championship, and he beat Craig Sherman in the final.

Because Kyle had qualified for two finals, the juniors played their championship and plate finals, both off scratch, on another day.

Ryan Harris, a 10-handicapper came up against Kyle, playing off four over 36 holes in the junior championship. Ryan scored a gross 77

over the morning 18, but Kyle was in fine form and the match was over after 28 holes. Both players had played very well.

Erin Allison and Dion Thomas played some outstanding shots in the Plate, again off scratch over 18 holes. The game was all square after 18 so it went to sudden death.

Dion's putt on the 19th looked as if it was in the centre of the cup but stopped an inch short, forcing play onto the 20th. It was a shame that there could only be one winner but all credit to Erin for winning the title.

The most prestigious of titles is obviously the Club Champion and this is the match that always draws the most interest.

The members knew they were in for a special game when stalwart

Craig Sherman progressed through the knockout stages to come up against young Kyle Harman.

At the halfway stage, the game had been 'nip and tuck' all the way, and that is how the second 18 progressed until the 34th, when Kyle produced a birdie and immediately followed it with another!

Craig was one down with one to play, and he had a birdie putt to take the game down the 37th. Alas for him it was not to be, and he duly congratulated Kyle in winning the battle.

This year, the Ladies Championship saw Liz Thomas and Jayne Williams in the final. Both ladies have been champions in previous years and their experience in competition conditions was clearly visible with some of the 'get out of jail' shots they played.

Jayne was not disgraced in being named runner up to this year's Ladies Champion, Liz Thomas.

Other matches played on the day saw Jenny Young beat Rose Dawson to take the Millennium Plate Trophy and Roger Davidge took Hugh Williams down the 19th to win the Seniors Alex Beattie Trophy.

The club captain, BJ Hawkins, had to admit defeat to Ben Briggs in the Dan Archer, but this year's vice-captain, Steve Hopkins, took the



Plate Trophy from Luke Allbrighton.

A new member to the club, To Tak Pang, was ecstatic to get his name on the Rabbits board with an impressive win against Steve Kenyon.

Some of the competitors in the Fairwood Park had also qualified in other finals, so this was another match that had to be played on an alternative day.

Kieron Whilding and Steve Bacon took on Craig Sherman and Chris Bacon (son of Steve!) with the latter pairing finishing victorious.

All winners and runners up now look forward to collecting their crystal trophies at the annual presentation evening in November.

They, together with all members of RAF St Athan Golf Club, warmly

welcome new members and visitors. For more information, telephone the club manager (01446 751043) or visit [www.rafstathangc.co.uk](http://www.rafstathangc.co.uk)

CAROL MORGAN

ABOVE:

Rose Dawson; Jayne Williams; Liz Thomas and Jenny Young.



ABOVE:

Craig Sherman congratulates Kyle Harman



ABOVE: To Tak Pang with Steve Kenyon.

## Four-try Hill caps a fine rugby display

**L LANTWIT MAJOR under-14s new flying winger, Alex Hill, marked only his second game in club colours with four superbly-taken tries against a Sully team who have always provided a strong challenge to the Llantwit boys as they have moved through the age groups.**

The match started in poor conditions which improved during the morning and allowed both teams to play some good open rugby.

Llantwit started the scoring when Alex was sent clear on halfway by the fluent backs, who were well fed all game by outstanding No 10 Iestyn Jones.

Hill rounded his opposite number before shaking off the cover defence to score his first try for the club. Jones converted.

The forwards started to provide good quality ball for the backs to use and another determined break by centre Steffen Godwin set up a ruck a couple of metres short. The forwards arrived en masse and second row Dan Sutton was driven over the line.

Alex Hill scored his second try when the backs again put him into space in his own half. Once again, he outpaced the cover to score wide out. Llantwit continued to dominate the rest of the half but the Sully defence held firm to make the score 19-0 at half-time.

Llantwit lost No 6 Max Croucher early in the second half, and with no natural replacement on the bench, full-back Charlie Neale decided that he'd like to have a go in the back row.

He proved a superb replacement as he opened the scoring in the second half with a well taken try following some excellent driving play by the forwards.

Ignoring the four-man overlap outside him, Neale backed himself and scored by the posts. Jones added the second of his three conversions.

Sully came back in to the game as Llantwit lost focus and scored a fine try for the front row union, following a series of penalties close to the Llantwit line. This seemed to re-focus the Llantwit boys, who hit back with two further long range tries from Hill. The backs were quick to acknowledge the fine work of the forwards at the final whistle.

The pack, led by the front row of Liam Piper, Morgan Thomas and stand in hooker Dan Richards, provided go forward ball for the backs to use all game. The stonewall defence in the backs meant that several Sully moves were snuffed out before they got going.

Big hits came flying in from centres Steffen Godwin, Joe Bunt and the back three of Rhodri Miskin, Todd Oldfield and Alex Hill. Man of the match was Alex Hill. Final score, 39-5 in favour of Llantwit Major. TJ



ABOVE:

Roger Davidge and Hugh Williams.

## Vale's Maria triumphs in 100-mile race

**The Vale's adventure racing athlete Maria Leijerstam notched up another win in a 100 mile race spanning the width of Scotland.**

The Scottish Coast to Coast adventure race started in Naim, east of Inverness, and finished in Glencoe on the west coast.

Racing solo, Maria took the female title in the 'expert class' showing her skill and speed in trail running, road biking, kayaking, mountain biking and mountain running. She was sponsored by 'inov-8' for the race.

Despite the urgency of the competition, Maria was able to savour some of the picturesque sights too.

"It was a really tough race but the scenery was absolutely spectacular and I had to stop a few times just to look around.

"The problem is you can never stop for more than a few moments because there is always someone chasing you!"



Maria Leijerstam.

Maria completed the race in 14 hours, 8 minutes.

She is now back in the Vale busily planning for two local adventure races due to take place in October - Cardiff Burn and Margam Mini Burn.

Maria added: "Each event involves running, cycling and kayaking and is a perfect way of experiencing multisport adventure racing for the first time."

For more information on events, people can go to: [www.multisport-wales.co.uk](http://www.multisport-wales.co.uk)



ABOVE: Steve Hopkin with Luke Allbrighton.

## Family postcard is all the way from Cardiff!

**ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee**

**G**EM columnist Brian Lee has teamed up with his daughter Amanda Harvey to compile 'A Postcard from Cardiff', a 128-page book of 200 postcard images chosen to illustrate the changing face of the capital city of Wales.

Informative captions accompany the pictures and with chapters on Cardiff Castle, the civic centre, sport, school days, memorable moments, parks and open spaces, it is a book not only for postcard enthusiasts but for anyone who wants to know more about this vibrant city.

In his foreword to the book, Alun Williams, editor of the South

Wales Postcard Club's newsletter Cardtalk, writes: "Brian and Amanda have captured the essence of the meaning of true nostalgia, which I am sure readers will spend many a happy hour discussing with family and friends."

Brian (75), is no stranger to the columns of the Glamorgan GEM having written for the paper for many years, mostly on point-to-point and horse racing. He has written around 25 books while his daughter Amanda (51) is feature writer for the international Morris Minor magazine.

Amanda has also contributed to a number of women's magazines but 'A Postcard From Cardiff', which is published by The History Press at £12.99, is her first book.

## Penarth warm up for a new lacrosse season

**PENARTH Lacrosse Club hosted a pre-season tournament on Saturday at the Athletic ground.**

Cardiff Harlequins from the premier division joined Penarth, who play in the west one division. The coaches of the under-19 Welsh squad entered a team, as did Swansea Hawks from west two division.

The fifth team was from UWIC, who play in the British universities west league.

The tournament was played eight-a-side, as opposed to the normal 10, and games were eight minutes each way, rather than the normal four 20-minute quarters.

This format suited two of Penarth's newer players, Dave Macardle and Sam Middlemiss, who were able to use their pace to create chances for Penarth all afternoon.

The sides played a round robin section first. Cardiff showed their experience and won all of their games and went

into the final.

The under 19s finished on six points from four games. UWIC and Swansea came in just ahead on seven.

Penarth squeezed into the final game by one point, the difference made by a single goal advantage.

The performance of James Griffiths in goal, and the close attack work of new boy Conner Boyes were both very important.

The final went the way of the premiership club, but Penarth did reduce the margin of defeat from the round robin game.

Overall everyone found it a good run out before the league season gets under way.

Anyone interested in playing is very welcome at Penarth Lacrosse Club. Games are on Saturday afternoons and training is on a Wednesday evening. Contact the club coach Ray Nash on 02920 591900.

RN





ABOVE: Pupils enjoyed their day of languages.

## St John's pupils put language at the centre of their day...

PUPILS and staff at St John's, Porthcawl were treated to an array of language lore and lists, as they celebrated the 10th European Day of Languages.

This was originally established by the European Council in order to increase awareness of the importance of language learning and the need to preserve and promote Europe's rich cultural and linguistic diversity.

Pupils at the Porthcawl school took part in a quiz on the capitals of many European countries, sang songs in French and German (St. John's pupils begin learning French at the age of four) and attempted to guess, in order, which of the top 12 European languages were the most widely spoken and which the least.

The fun continued in lesson times with pupils also enjoying a range of European foods, courtesy of busy Mums and Sainsbury's.

Year 6 particularly enjoyed a 'Hermann' German friendship cake, baked from sour dough.

The three modern languages teachers, Mr. Keating, Mrs Sarll and Mrs Hannaby, held a special European assembly and there was a competition for the best EDL poster.

Pupils also had to guess from which country certain greetings came and from which countries the words buffalo, broccoli and umbrella originated.

Pupils were interested to learn that Irish is an official EU language – but Welsh, despite a campaign by Plaid Cymru, has so far been disallowed.



In terms of mother tongue usage, pupils and staff were also interested to learn that German is the most widely mother spoken tongue language in the EU – 24 per cent compared with 16 per cent for both French and English.

After some research, pupils discovered that this was due not only to the size and population of Germany, but due to its official status in many countries other than Germany – Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein.

To prove how inspiring it all was, Mrs Sarll embarked on a new Welsh improvers' course in the local tabernacle (Hebrew word meaning 'dwelling' or 'residence' by the way) that very evening!

Headteacher Mrs Clint is always pleased to include this annual celebration of languages in the St. John's calendar:

### Pink coffee morning

**PORHCRAWL Lions will be ahead of the game when they hold their Pink Coffee Morning in aid of Breast Cancer Care a week or so before the majority of the events for this charity are to take place.**

The pink themed morning will take place in the Atlantic Hotel on October 14 from 10am onwards. The tickets are

"We are very proud of our language teaching policy here, giving all pupils the chance to tackle both French and German from a very young age.

"Through our Comenius project, pupils have also been exposed to other languages such as Icelandic, Turkish and Irish Gaelic.

"It has been proven that early language learning is the best possible start you can give a child in order to achieve oral fluency and excellent written skills – and to maintain interest in later life, which is vital if we are to keep the breadth of languages we all enjoy".

Statistics for top 12 languages spoken in EU, as a mother tongue and as a foreign language combined: English, 47 per cent, German, 32 per cent, French, 28 per cent, Italian, 18 per cent, Spanish, 15 per cent, Greek, Portuguese and Swedish, 3 per cent, Danish and Dutch, 2 per cent and Russian and

## THE BITTEN WORD AT FEASTIVAL?

**BRIDGEND - BASED Seren, one of Wales' best known and established book publishers, turns 30 next week and is celebrating with an unusual street party in the middle of its hometown.**

The birthday, on October 1, coincides with Bridgend's flagship event, Feastival, Wales' alternative food festival.

The publishers have worked with festival organisers to stage a street party with an interesting mix of food and literature throughout the day outside their offices in Nolton Street, and are offering birthday cake, refreshments, a free book and discounted books for everyone who attends.

There will be poetry readings, open mic sessions, music, and as it's the Wales Alternative Food Festival, Delicious, the popular deli next door to Seren Books, is offering a special discount to anyone who attends the party.

Mick Felton, head of Seren, said: "Seren's 30 years have seen plenty of changes. Like everyone else, we've evolved from pasting up bromide pages to the digital age and it's

never been less than eventful, stimulating, or rewarding.

"When Cary Archard founded the publishing house, I doubt he could have envisaged that we would be celebrating our 30th anniversary with a Man Booker Prize longlisting!"

Seren Books began from a humble background, trading from an old coastal cottage near Ogmore-by-Sea, to a fully-fledged literary publisher based in the town of Bridgend.

Today, the publishers continue to work with leading writers and investing in new talent. Patrick McGuinness' *The Last Hundred Days*, long-listed for the Man Booker prize, is the latest success for this small publisher that continues to punch above its weight in the literary world.

Seren's birthday party celebration is open to everyone and will take place outside the Bridgend office from 11am on October 1; guest of honour will be acclaimed author Dannie Abse.

For further details, contact Seren Books on 01656 663018 or visit [www.serenbooks.com/](http://www.serenbooks.com/)

## 'Green' charity's appeal over 5p levy on bags

**PORHCRAWL-based charity Sustainable Wales is appealing to local traders to pass on customers' 5p single bag-use levy – to help develop more local community activities.**

Director Margaret Minihinnick has written to them saying: "As you are probably aware, the Welsh Government has introduced a levy on single-use carrier bags. The charge will probably come in on October 1 and is a minimum of 5p. It will apply to all single

use carrier bags in Wales. The local authority trading standards department will be the monitoring body.

"The Welsh Government wants revenues raised by the levy to be passed on to environmental charities, and I would like to encourage you to pass on your levy income to Sustainable Wales (SW).

"Sustainable Wales is a community-based educational project offering local responses to global issues, aimed at reducing our ecological footprint and encouraging sustainable lifestyles.

"SW undertook the 'plastic bag campaign' lastly a couple of years ago, with the help of Porthcawl and District Chamber of Trade, which offered information, resources and support to traders.

"It achieved a 95 per cent involvement of local shops and close to a 30 per cent reduction in distribution of plastic bags during the short campaign period.

"The media work (and requested talks to local schools and other groups across south Wales) spread the name of Porthcawl far and wide, and helped inform the Welsh Government."

### Library closes

**THERE will no longer be a library service available at the Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel from Friday, September 30 onwards.**

The nearest council-run library facilities will be at Ogmore Valley Life Centre, which will reopen on Monday, October 3 after redecoration.

For further details, visit [www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries) or call 01656 754856.

## Pencoed unveil first under-15 girls rugby team!



Pencoed Phoenix under-15s girls team.

**FOR the first time ever in the history of Pencoed RFC, Phoenix fielded an under-15s girls team against Gilfach Goch.**

The team was as follows: Kelly James, Amy Leverton, Ellys Jenkins, Katie Howells, Ria Brown, Amy Morgan, Harriet Wensley, Ayesha Williams, Caitlin Jones, Ceryn Williams, Holly Hiscocks, Holly Jenkins, Megan Whittaker, Seren Hart, Megan Fry; the coach was Paul James.

**LEFT: Try scorer Amy Morgan.**



The team in action against Gilfach Goch.

## Sporting plans are on track for 2012

**2012 won't just be an important sporting year for London – the residents of Bridgend county borough can also expect big changes to local leisure facilities as well.**

Bridgend County Borough Council's plans to improve its leisure facilities and enhance the range of opportunities for local people to be healthy and active, are progressing well, with the new Brackla Sports Centre, situated on the site of the new Archbishop McGrath School, due to open shortly.

The new facilities include sports hall; activity studio; multi-use games areas; state-of-the-art floodlit artificial turf sports pitch; grass playing fields and changing facilities.

The centre will be used by the school during the day but will support an extensive programme of club and community use at evenings and weekends.

Initially catering for local sports clubs and sports clubs relocating from Bridgend Recreation Centre, the centre will, in the future, accommodate a range of courses, classes, casual usage and holiday activities.

Meanwhile, the council's proposal to work with a partner to deliver local leisure services are also on track.

Councillor Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "As a council we recognise the need for con-

tinued investment in our leisure centres and pools with a particular focus on the development of Bridgend Recreation Centre. There are ongoing negotiations with a small number of leisure operators who through a partnership could bring capital investment into our leisure buildings.

"There is also significant change scheduled for leisure provision in Bridgend County Borough and it's important for our customers to know why we are doing this.

"We want to create a sustainable future for our facilities and continue to develop services that will meet customer expectations and attract new users.

"It's anticipated that an announcement on a partnership may be made in January 2012 as we enter the Olympic year," he added.

To celebrate the contribution of Bridgend athletes and Wales to the Olympic and Paralympic games, an exhibition entitled 'Following the Flame' will be based at Bridgend Recreation Centre from mid October.

The exhibition intends to inspire more than 3,000 school children, but will also be available at set times to the public and other interested groups.

The exhibition includes a range of memorabilia including Tanni Grey Thompson's wheelchair, Simon Richardson's gold medal, the Olympic torch previously carried by Muhammed Ali in Atlanta and more.

### Home for cats?

**A good home is being sought for two family friendly cats aged 10 and six.**

Please telephone 01446 772680.



# Porthcawl RFC get the show back on the road

**PORHCRAWL got over the disappointment of losing to Cowbridge by taking Ogmores Vale's unbeaten record at South Road on Saturday.**

This was a frenetic encounter throughout, and both sides set off at a pace to show what they could do.

It was the Seaweeds, however, who drew first blood as wing Sean Simmonds made it two tries in three matches as he skipped over in the corner for 5-11.

Ogmores could be thankful for the accurate boot of Ryan Jones, and he replied with a good penalty for 5-3, before some outstanding back play saw centre Gareth Richards profit following phase after phase of pressure from the home side, and he put on the gas to squeeze over in the corner for a try and 10-3.

With the old campaigner Blair Driscoll pulling the strings at fly-half, the home side kept up the tempo and looked dangerous, only for wrong options at the death to prevent further tries, and it was Ogmores who clawed back three points as Jones slotted his second penalty for

**PORHCRAWL  
OGMORE VALE**

**15  
12**



Photographs by  
**TRACEY  
WILLIAMS**

**Winger Sean Simmonds grabbed two tries.**

10-6 at the break.

Ogmores Vale have made their best start to a season for many years and are a useful-looking side in parts, and they continued their non-stop commitment into the second spell, but without really getting close to breaking down a resolute home defence.

The home pack too, were giving the visitors

a torrid time at the scrum, with loosehead Gavin Williams particularly playing havoc with his opposite number, and this platform helped put Porthcawl further ahead as Simmonds nabbed his second try of the match for 15-6.

Despite the problems at the set piece, Ogmores Vale continued to thwart the home side's attempts to get the ball in scoring positions and with Jones kicking two further penalties to bring the match to the wire at 15-12, the referee appeared to have lost his watch, adding some 12 minutes of injury time.

Porthcawl go back on the road and pay a visit to old adversaries Tonna on Saturday.

**PAUL FIELDING**



**LEFT: Full-back  
Ollie Jones  
is tackled.**

## Bryncethin under-10s are just too strong for Bridgend Sports

**BRYNCEETHIN under-10s played a home game against Bridgend Sports.**

With a wet and windy start, Bryncethin kicked off with the two sides evenly matched. However, Bryncethin soon put the pressure on and, with some excellent rucking from Liam Svenson and Niall Bamford, a quick pass from Nathan Archer led Tom Painter to score the first try.

After the restart, Bryncethin started where they left off, only being

thwarted by some good defending by the Sports but it soon became apparent that Bryncethin were the stronger side with another try scored.

The second half kicked off with Bryncethin showing some great defending, not allowing the Sports to gain any momentum with excellent tackling from Geraint Richards, Leon Davies and Kathryn Pritchard.

Dafydd Baker and Ethan O'Neill made some good ground with excellent runs but were stopped by the Sports.

Bryncethin soon showed they were up to the task with an outstanding try-saving tackle from Kane Walters, and with minutes left to play Mason Jones, running from deep, scored a solo try, kicking his third conversion for a 21-0 win to Bryncethin.

Man of the match was awarded to Liam Svenson, who proved to be a real handful for the opposition.

**Team: Tom Painter, Mason Jones, Kathryn Pritchard, Liam Svenson, Dafydd Baker, Geraint Richards, Nathan Archer, Kane Walters, Ethan O'Neill, Niall Bamford, Leon Davies.**

**RS**



**PENCOED  
YSTALYFERA**

**36  
25**

**THE visitors opened the scoring in the early minutes with a penalty goal from their player coach Gareth James, with home outside-half Marc Davies leveling matters shortly afterwards.**

Good combined play from Pencoed saw them move the ball wide, and accurate interpassing between full-back Ken Morris and right-wing Glen Hiscocks saw Hiscocks race over wide out; Davies converted from the touchline.

James then kicked a penalty for the visitors before Davies engineered a superb try for the home side.

A stab kick into the hands of left-wing Liam Halse caught out the Ystalyfera defence, and the young wing took his chance well, Davies converting for Pencoed to lead 17-6.

Ystalyfera then hit back with full-back Morgan Harries getting their opening try.

Approaching the interval, Pencoed increased their lead through back row forward Aaron Halse, Davies again converting from wide out for

the home side to lead 24-11 at the break.

Early in the second half, only a superb cover tackle from Pencoed skipper Morris saved a certain score.

Ystalyfera then camped on the Pencoed 22 for some 10 minutes, but the home side defended resolutely not to concede a score.

Davies then punished the visitors for their indiscretions with three penalty goals to stretch the Pencoed lead to 33-11.

Ystalyfera then began to win more possession and two converted tries from Phillip Thomas and their captain Ashley Carter brought the scoreline to 33-25, before Davies settled home nerves with a penalty goal, and a final scoreline of 36-25.

The control of home outside-half Marc Davies, together with a match haul of 21 points, deservedly gave him man of the match.

Pencoed can now travel to Mumbles on Saturday with a certain amount of confidence following this good all round team performance.

**TR**

## Rhys kicks Pencoed Youth to victory

**PENCOED YOUTH  
LLANHARAN YOUTH**

**15  
3**

**A GOOD crowd watched this intriguing youth derby match at the Recreation Ground.**

Pencoed, playing into a strong wind, defended their line well, with a couple of aggressive forays from home centre Lloyd Bargery gaining ground.

Both sides had first half chances, a Llanharan effort ruled out for a double movement, and a Pencoed pass failing to go to hand with the defence broken.

The game was being played at a good tempo, with plenty of skill on show, and it was Llanharan who opened the scoring with a penalty goal shortly before the interval.

Soon after the break, Pencoed centre Rhys Thomas levelled matters with a penalty goal. With the wind now at their backs, Pencoed were on top territorially, and former Welsh Schools cap Thomas kicked a further four penalties to seal a deserved victory, his final penalty a 50-metre effort off the cross bar.

The youth section now has an abundance of players, with a good prevailing squad atmosphere, which bodes well for the club when this current crop of players eventually emerge into the senior ranks.

**On Saturday, the Youth host Nantaffyllon in the league.**

**TR**

# Late fightback doesn't deny Pencoed the win

**PHOTOGRAPHS by JULIE HANCOCK.**

**LEFT: Pencoed centre Jeff Hobbs hits the gap.**



**Pencoed prop Shaun Donovan takes on the Ystalyfera defence.**

## Cowbridge RFC put 50 points on Banwen

**COWBRIDGE RFC entertained Banwen at home last Saturday and won 59-6, courtesy of a masterclass by outside half Carwyn Morgan.**

The game had barely started before Morgan dropped a neat 30-metre goal.

He then put over two penalties, with one from Banwen sandwiched in between.

The referee was in the wars when a Banwen player accidentally charged into him, but he dusted himself off and reffed on.

At the mid-point, Banwen pressurised Cowbridge and it took a good tackle from Huw Lougher in the centre, followed by great defence in the 22, to keep Banwen out.

Cowbridge were fortunate that two Banwen penalties went under the bar.

A pass to the Banwen left wing wasn't held and hooker Luke Adams kicked through, and the ball bounced nicely for flying wing Ilya Pellegrotti to gather at full pace and touch down.

Morgan added a superb conversion from the touchline.

Just past the 30-minute mark, a quick pass from the base of a scrum by Dewi Edwards enabled Morgan to put centre Lougher through a gap for a run 10 metres short of the line. From the ruck, Morgan moved right and put flanker Rhys Jones into space to touch down for a con-

verted try.

Just before half time, Banwen's second row was sin-binned for persistent infringing at the rucks.

**The half time score was 23-3.**

Just into the second half, No 8 and captain Ross Llewellyn joined the Banwen player in the sin-bin.

Soon after, Morgan slotted his third penalty.

At the mid-point of the half, a deep kick into Cowbridge territory was brilliantly returned by a 40-metre run by right wing Liam Rowland.

That brought a penalty and a further 10 metres for dissent, and then a Morgan missed penalty!

From a scrum, Dewi Edwards picked up and the forwards drove him forward. He twisted forward over the tryline for a converted score.

Hard-working flanker Zac Macpherson crossed the line but knocked on as he dived.

Moments later, Banwen tried to attack from their 22. They were dispossessed, the ball was moved to Morgan, then back inside to Lougher, who scored near the posts. Morgan added the extras.

For the last 15 minutes, Alun John came on at prop for Dai Popham. Huw Llewellyn for full back Ed Lakin, and Phil Edwards in the second row for Alex Lewis.

After his injury problems, it was great to see Edwards back in a Cowbridge shirt.

Cowbridge didn't ease up, adding three fine tries by the finish. First, a great run by centre

Huw Llewellyn on the burst, a shimmy and then an off load to the supporting No 8 Ross Llewellyn.

Luke Boys, after an impressive 70 minutes, was replaced in the centre by Dai Roper.

The penultimate try saw Morgan move the ball to the left and Huw Llewellyn, again at pace, burst through the gap for his own converted try.

Just before Cowbridge's last try, Banwen's outstanding hooker added a superb 40-metre drop kick to their score.

From a scrum five, Cowbridge got the ball back quickly, Dewi Edwards passed to Morgan, allowing him to size up the options, then with a hand off he was through the gap for a richly deserved try and conversion.

**The final score was 59-6.**

It was a good team performance from the Cowbridge pack, with young second row Carwyn Davies at its heart.

The pack secured enough ball for Carwyn Morgan to run the show.

The team ends September on a real high, but we must not get ahead of ourselves; rather we must build on this start.

Having been on the wrong end of many a match, we can savour this month's results.

Next Saturday, Cowbridge First XV have a tough match against Ogmores Vale away.

**RV/RK**

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# KENFIG HILL OUTPLAY QUINS IN THE RAIN

## KENFIG HILL FIRSTS v ABERAVON QUINS

**KENFIG Hill returned to the Harlequin Road ground after a period of absence and outplayed Aberavon Quins for a fine victory.**

Once the rain started before the kick off, the conditions were suited to the Quins eight-man game, but the Mules were more than a match for them up front and their dazzling back play

held sway

Kenfig Hill were under pressure for the first 10 minutes, when a charged down clearance kick gave the Quins possession.

Despite using their forwards as battering rams, the Kenfig Hill defence was outstanding and the home side was limited to a single penalty, converted by outside half Marc Sheppard.

Kenfig Hill outside half Raymond Evans responded immediately with a penalty.

The Quins scored two further penalties through Sheppard before a sus-

tained attack by the Mules saw centre Rhodri Clark power his way over for a try, converted by Evans. The Mules had the upper hand for the rest of the half, with only resolute defending keeping them at bay.

Kenfig Hill pressurised the home side from the start of the second half and centre Rhodri Clark put over a short range penalty.

A Quins front row player was then yellow carded and, as they had used their prop substitute, they opted for passive scrums, which

brought about an absurd situation where Kenfig Hill were unable to gain any advantage from the yellow card.

Some dazzling play from defence saw the ball passed to the Kenfig Hill left winger Ben Clark, and from the half way line he beat the opposition centres, wing and full back to score near the posts; Evans made no mistake with the conversion.

There was some confusion from a pile up near the Mules line when a scrum was indicated, but then a try was awarded to Kyle Blackmore of the Quins, the conversion being missed.

Kenfig Hill hooker Karl Davies was mysteriously yellow carded at this point and the Mules, unlike their opposition, brought on a forward substitute, opting to continue scrummaging.

The Quins tried to spin the ball but the Kenfig Hill defence coped with ease, and then Raymond Evans scored a try which was absolutely sublime.

He took a pass inside his 25 and put up a hanging up and under, and while the Quins looked



Centre Rhodri Clark on his way to the line.

## PORTHCAWL AFC UNDER-14s GRAB WELL-DESERVED WIN

**PORTHCAWL Town AFC under-14s took on Croeserw in their brand new kit (reminiscent of Barcelona!) for the first game of the season.**

They couldn't have picked a harder game to start with, as Croeserw have won most of the silverware over the last few years.

Croeserw started the stronger, with their bigger players using their size to their advantage – and a keeper who could kick a football the length of the field.

The Town defence were in for a hard morning, with one long

kick after another bombarding the defence and it was Croeserw who scored first, a lovely strike from outside the box leaving Ben Cannon no chance.

The second half saw Porthcawl start the stronger, with their passing game from the back starting to click.

They broke the Croeserw defence down the left with a Danny Coleman pass finding Ryan Matthews, who crossed first time for Rhidian Nelson to volley in at the near post.

It was one-way traffic and it wasn't long before Porthcawl scored their second, as neat play between George Beale and Ryan

Matthews put Jorge Crofts through for a one on one with the keeper.

He used his speed to round the keeper and slot the ball into an empty net, and then with 10 minutes left, he rifled the ball past the keeper to make it 3-1.

High praise must go to Scott Hodgson and his defence, and to Ben Cannon for his brilliant handling throughout the game.

John Nelson and Mike Crofts would like to thank Kelvin and Sharon from Diamond Centre of Wales for sponsoring the boys new kit.

MC

## Ospreys Cup win for Pencoed RFC under-15s

**THE elements were against Pencoed as they travelled to Nantylfyllon on the weekend for their first Ospreys Cup match.**

Despite the rain, Lewis Brennan was able to score the first try of the day, followed by a conversion from Alex King.

Ellis Griffiths got Pencoed's second try, followed by a penalty for Nantylfyllon, which ended the first half.

After a pep talk, new boy Cole Lewis scored his first try for Pencoed,

followed by a try for Nantylfyllon, and then to end the game, there was a second try for Ellis Griffiths.

The final score was 22 - 8 to Pencoed.

The squad was: Scott Ewing, Jac Briggs, Jayke Broker, Josh Maund, Morgan Jefferies, Aled Bargery, Lloyd Webb, Lewis Brennan, Alex King, Jordan Fox, Jonny Clatworthy, Liam Bowen, Ellis Griffiths, Kristian Morgan, Rhys Brownell, Owain Clarke, Cole Lewis and Jacob Charles.

JM

## Porthcawl under-12s start season well

**PORTHCAWL under-12s season has started extremely well, with wins at home against Bridgend Sports (36-5) and Abercynon (26-0).**

The boys followed these fantastic results with another home win against neighbours Kenfig Hill by 54 points to nil, and more recently notched a narrow win at local rivals Bridgend Athletic by 12-7.

Porthcawl's next match is away to Camarthen Quins on October 2.

This proved to be a tough game last season, so the boys will have to be at their best to prove that west is not necessarily best!

Porthcawl are still looking to strengthen their squad by recruiting a few more forwards.

If you would like to be part of this successful team and enjoy playing in the pack, please get in touch with one of the coaches; contact details can be found on our website at porthcawlrfc.com.

IB



## PHOTOGRAPHS by PETER GILLING

ABOVE: Raymond Evans gliding through the opposition.

on he caught the ball, sidestepped his way through the defence to score under the posts and then converted his try.

Sheppard then scored another penalty for the home side, while Rhodri Clark scored his second try for Kenfig Hill, going over from a ruck on the Quins line.

The Quins then played hide the ball rugby, which Kenfig Hill easily defended, and in a rare moment they spun the ball out and back Chris Jones crossed in the corner to give a final score of Kenfig Hill 32, Aberavon Quins 22.

Second row Jon Thomas was named as the Kenfig Hill man of the match, with another good performance by Raymond Evans.

Full back Matthew Tossell gave a fine all round display until he went off injured, while the pack was superb against a team who are renowned for their forward play, and once again the Mules gave a top-class display defensively.

## KENFIG HILL 2NDs 36

**TONDU 2NDs 12**  
The Mules second string returned to winning ways with an emphatic win over local rivals Tondur Croft Goch.

The Mules scored first, following some crisp handling along

their potent back line, with full back Lewis Morgan crossing in the corner.

Tondur replied almost immediately with a well-deserved try from a five metre scrum. This was converted to put them in the lead at 7-5.

From that point the Mules took control and further first half tries were scored by hard working No 8 Lloyd Smith, followed by a second from Lewis Morgan.

The Mules continued to dominate the game in the second half and tries were scored by centre Shaun Burnell (two) and winger Deke Morse.

However, Tondur never gave up the ghost and scored a deserved second try with the last move of the game.

There were a number of standout performances from the Mules, with outside half Owen Davies leading the line expertly in both attack and defence, ably assisted by centres Burnell and Mark Fitzgerald.

However it was the Mules back row that stood out, with tireless work from flanker Gareth Downs, No 8 Lloyd Smith and man of the match Dai Dent.

Congratulations also to today's referee Nigel Woodward of Brynamman whose attitude and control ensured that both teams were able to play attractive running rugby.

GO'S

## Glut of goals for Pencoed under-14s

**PENCOED under-14s put Caerau under pressure from the start, and a pass from Dylan Barrett to Ben Clarke saw Pencoed go one up after five minutes.**

A minute later, Ben grabbed his second after heading in a cross from Alex Howland, who went on to score the third.

Mason Roach got the fourth as the ball rebounded from the right hand post into the back of the net.

A good cross from Tom Miller gave Alex Howland the chance to make it five, and Lewis Butler was next to score, and he soon followed that with his second, after a clever flick-on by Jordan Burrows.

Alex Howland scored

next, for his hat-trick, and half-time came with the score 9-0.

It was more of the same in the second half, and Mason Roach was first to score, getting another soon after for his hat-trick.

Jordan Burrows then stepped up, scoring the next two goals, before Lewis Butler completed his hat-trick.

Tom Miller was next to find the back of the net, before Jordan Burrows made a fine run for his hat-trick.

Caerau continued to battle, but Pencoed were proving too strong. There were another couple of goals each for Mason Roach and Lewis Butler, before Evan Price scored the final goal of the game.

EJ/SG



Prop Gavin Jenkins on a charge.

## Rhys is player of the month



ABOVE: Wayne Griffiths presents Rhys Ward with the award.

**BRIDGEND Athletic RFC's new president, Wayne Griffiths, presented the Nathaniel Car Sales player of September award to full back/winger Rhys Ward Jones.**

Rhys is the leading try scorer for the Athletic with five touchdowns so far this season, and has turned in consistently high quality performances, as well as being exemplary in training sessions.

Wayne is promising a long term association with his company and the Athletic, with many positive potential rewards for BARFC club members; Nathaniel Cars sponsored the exciting Narbeth fixture at the weekend.

AB

## Athletic seconds show off their young talent

**BRIDGEND Athletic Second XV made it three successive victories with a 37-10 win away against their Blackwood counterparts.**

Outside half Tom Parry had a match haul of 22 points with a try, four conversions and three penalties to give him 51 points in three starts.

Nick Hinton, Johnny Jones and Harry Griffiths also crossed

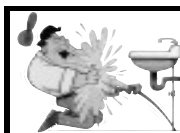
the whitewash. It was the first tries of the season for all four players.

In the pack, three youngsters under 20 years of age. John Mustoe, Harry Griffiths and Lee Murphy played extremely well, while Johnny Jones, usually a flanker but playing at centre, was the pick of the backs.

This Saturday October 1, along with the First XV, the club travel to take on the students at UWIC in a National League fixture.

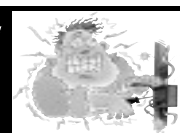
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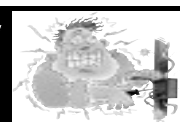
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The Broad Shoard, Cowbridge CF71 7DA

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## Birthday Notices

### VICTORIA Mercedes Patuto

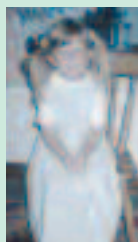
10th Birthday  
4 October 2011

Happy Birthday  
from Flipper  
& all your family xxxx



### Happy 18th Birthday

BETHAN GRIFFITHS  
on 29 September 2011



To our wonderful daughter  
Lots of love  
Mum, Dad  
and all the family xxx

## Birth Notices

### Congratulations

Nathan & Hannah

(FRANCIS)

on the birth of beautiful

Eloise Bronwen  
on 17th September 2011

A little sister for Libby!

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## Family Notices

### Trisha Pippin

29.6.49 - 24.9.11

Trisha died after an illness borne with enormous dignity and courage. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Phillip, sons Carwyn and Alun, her grandchildren and all her family.

Funeral service to be held on Wednesday, October 5th, 2011, 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium.

No flowers. Donations may be made to a Cancer charity of your choice.

### HIGGINS

Mary

Peacefully on September 23rd at Milsom House, St Athan. Mary, formerly of Rhose, who will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James and Sons, Ffônnon.

Funeral Thursday October 6, service 1.45pm at St Peter's Church, Rhose, followed by cremation at The Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3.00pm.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home, or donation to Marie Curie Cancer Care

c/o J W James, 11 Ffônnon Road, Rhose, CF62 3DZ.

### Mervyn Williams

1928-2011

Previously of the Pentre, Rhonda, died at home in Llantwit Major on Saturday August 27, 2011.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 60 years, Eileen.

He was father to Gareth, Stephen, Keith and Marian, with daughters-in-law Audrey and Ann, and also son-in-law Christopher. He was a grandfather and great-grandfather.

A private family funeral was held on September 6, 2011.

If desired, donations in memory of Mervyn would be welcome to Llamau, via the funeral directors, W A Brown and Son of Llantwit Major.

Llamau is a charity which provides help to 16 to 25-year-old single and homeless youths in Wales.

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## News in brief

# NOW ELIN (10) IS ON THE RADIO!



LEFT: Elin Alexander from Penarth, who recently recorded a radio advert voiceover for a children's charity and is also set for an appearance in 'Casualty'.

ELIN Alexander (aged 10) from Penarth, has recently recorded a radio advert voiceover for a children's charity.

She landed the job after a telephone audition with the casting director, and also filmed an episode of 'Casualty' earlier this year.

Elin has also been selected as part of the choir for the touring production of *Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat* in The New Theatre, Cardiff. She will be performing in a two-week run of the show, singing on stage for the whole show.

She said: "I am so excited to be involved in the show as it is one of my favourite musicals. I watch the TV show *Any Dream Will Do* and Keith Jack was definitely one of my favourites, so I am really looking forward to meeting him."

The Mark Jermin Stage School in Penarth is looking for more children to be involved in the show; telephone 01792 458855.

## Grant to help Penarth Pavilion

THE Welsh Government has awarded £300,000 towards the restoration and refurbishment of the Penarth pier pavilion.

A total of 15 organisations across Wales will share over £2.58 million of funding for projects aimed at regenerating the local area.

Assembly minister Carl Sargeant said: "These grants are not simply about improving buildings. Local clubs and centres can be the hub of the community where people, young and old, get together and enjoy social activities."

## U3A branch meets at Sully

THE University of the Third Age (U3A) - an organisation dedicated to providing learning for people who are no longer working

arrived in Sully.

"At the recent inaugural meeting, held in the Old School at Sully, over 100 people applied for membership, and this is just the start,"

said Ian Mathias, the initial driving force behind the Sully branch.

The first full meeting of Sully U3A will be held on Thursday, October 13, at 2pm in the Old School, Sully. All members and potential members welcome.

For further information contact: 07828 154701 or 07720 257686, membership@sullyu3a.co.uk

## Barry table sale for Eisteddfod

A TABLE-TOP sale and coffee morning will be held on Saturday, October 1, in the Welsh chapel on King's Square, Barry, from 10.30am-2.30pm.

This is a general event, welcome to all: a chance to rest your legs while shopping, have a chat with friends and browse some of the high quality

items at bargain prices that people have brought along.

If you want to sell unwanted items, you can book a table for £5: please contact Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784 to book one now.

Table hire will go towards the National Eisteddfod, which is being held in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2012. TP





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60.1 (4.7), COMBINED 57.6 (4.9) - 74.3 (3.8). CO2 EMISSIONS IN G/KM 115  
- 97. \*Vehicle shown is a Chrysler Ypsilon 1.2 Limited at £13,670 on the road,  
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## Barry Ladies RFC show promise at start of the season

**ON what threatened to be a washout Sunday, Barry Ladies RFC 'The Bombettes' turned out on the home pitch to play their first league match of the season.**

Facing Gwernyfed, a relegated side from the league above and with a wealth of experience, the Bombettes opted for contested scrums, and

with both sides only having 15 players and no subs, it promised to be a battle from the off.

The first 20 minutes saw Gwernyfed fighting to get out of their own half despite having the slope to their advantage. Eventually their experience told and they managed to gain some ground and score a try.

Further pressure saw Gwernyfed score a converted try close to the half-time whistle.

The Bombettes were

undeterred and started the second half briskly.

Despite plenty of endeavour, Gwernyfed showed their experience by creating and finishing off three overlaps to make the final score 29-0. The Bombettes had dominated the line outs and competed strongly in the scrums. For their first game, they played very well and deserve acclaim.

Players of the match: The Bombettes chose Kim Jones and Gwernyfed chose Rebecca Boffy.

The team would like to thank Ray and Sam for their excellent coaching to date and



Andy and Nigel for their assistance.

Special thanks go to Rebecca Boffy for the after match meal, to Hopkins, the butchers, and Jackie's grocers for the supplies and Carol in the club for her hospitality.

Any ladies interested in playing rugby, regardless of experi-

ence, would be more than welcome at Barry RFC. The club can be contacted at www.barryladiesrfc@hotmail.co.uk.

**ABOVE:**  
**Action from the lineout as Barry ladies took on Gwernyfed.**

## Tim's success

**ABERTHIN trainer Tim Vaughan landed the novices' handicap chase at Plumpton last Sunday, with his five-year-old bay gelding, Tae Kwon Do, which romped home a nine lengths winner from Clu Agus Cail. Tae Kwon Do.**

Winning for the third time, it was ridden by 3lb-claiming jockey RJ Killoran and was returned at odds of 11-2.

Brian Lee

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## Ladies end the season on high

**BARRY** Plastic ladies section ended the season on a high in the afternoon ladies' league, winning a close game against Cardiff BC.

The ladies' double rink competition was won by Millwood BC. The game was played at Barry Plastics, where the presentation took place with representation from each club playing in that competition.

The evening league ladies had a good run, winning their section, but failed at the final hurdle losing to Cardiff and Macintosh.

The outright winners were Bridgend ladies who put on a good show, the runners-up were Cardiff ladies. Well done to the girls who represented the club in both the Welsh and Glamorgan competitions. MD

## Lucy's gold joy!

**RECENTLY, in north Wales, Lucy Taylor (age 16) from Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, represented south Wales in the Welsh inter-regional championships.**

She won gold in the long jump with a personal best of five metres.

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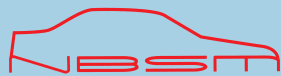
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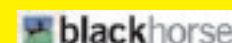


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# GEM sport

## AFTER PLUCKY NAMIBIA IS HIT BY POINTS BLITZ... The quarter finals beckon Wales

**BACK PAGE COMMENT** by Don John

AFTER two tough opening matches, Wales must have felt heartily relieved to be facing the less taxing challenge of Rugby World Cup minnows, Namibia, at the Taranaki stadium, New Plymouth, on Monday.

They went into the game knowing that the African team had already conceded a total of 185 points in their previous three matches in Pool D.

Both Samoa and Fiji had rattled up 49 points against them, while world champions South Africa had run in 12 tries, while handing out an 87-0 beating to their smaller neighbours.

Yet it was also true that despite their lowly status on the international stage, Namibia had achieved a measure of success against Wales in their three previous meetings, all on home soil.

At Windhoek on June 2, 1990, the Welsh tourists narrowly won 18-9 - while one week later, Namibia almost pulled off a major shock before being edged out 34-30.

On June 5, 1993, the gap between the two widened to 38-23, but again the plucky Namibians showed a worrying ability to breach the Welsh defence.

In fact, over the three games, they scored a commendable six tries to Wales' 10 - and it all added up to a banana skin of giant proportions for a Welsh team showing 11 changes, which faced Namibia

again this week. Back from injury were prop Gethin Jenkins, ex-skipper Ryan Jones and outside half Stephen Jones, making a record 101st appearance, while Lee Byrne was given a chance to impress at full back, in an experienced line-up that was fully expected to brush aside Namibia's challenge.

On paper at least, it was clearly going to be another mismatch, with the only question being - could Wales surpass their main pool rivals' scoring efforts and also claim a vital bonus point against the only team that has never won a World Cup game?

The answer, in the end, was a resounding yes, but not before a sloppy, error-ridden first half had caused a few palpitations in the Welsh backroom.

Even three tries in the opening 18 minutes from young Scarlets' centre Scott Williams, Dragons' winger Aled Brew and his superb clubmate, No 8 Toby Faletau, plus a Stephen Jones penalty - for a 22-0 first half lead - would not have been enough to erase the sense of unease at the profligate waste of gilt-edged opportunities.

Clearly, some very tough talking at half time had the desired effect, for the tries then came thick and fast.

First, Scott Williams went over for a second try, swiftly followed by a rejuvenated Gethin Jenkins, who shrugged off his injury woes, along with would-be defenders, and burst



Replacement scrumhalf Lloyd Williams goes over for his maiden try.

through like a centre three-quarter from 30 yards out, to make the score 36-0.

The plucky, but outclassed Namibians, who had been made to play four World Cup matches in 16 days, then got on the score sheet with a converted try of their own, after intercepting a loose pass from, of all people, the otherwise dependable Stephen Jones.

However, with the game effectively won, it was now simply a question of piling on the points and it was the signal for head coach Warren Gatland to send in fresh reserves, including former Cowbridge schoolboy, Lloyd Williams in the 58th minute.

Seven Welsh tries then came in a rush, with two for giant wing George North, one each for centres Jonathan Davies, Scott Williams (completing his hat-trick) Lloyd Williams, Lee Byrne and the

impressive Alun Wyn Jones.

All in all, 12 record-breaking touchdowns and a bonus point not only matched South Africa's effort against the unfortunate Namibians, but also put Wales firmly in sight of their quarter final objective, with only Fiji (who lost 7-27 to Samoa) to come in Hamilton on Sunday.

Given such a decisive 81-7 victory, it may seem churlish to point out that no-one should get too carried away.

Lowly Namibia had already been 'softened up' by a string of pulverising defeats and a punishing Pool D schedule.

Moreover, there were times in the first half when old Welsh problems were in danger of resurfacing - careless handling errors, lapses in concentration, indiscipline, and lack of a Kiwi-like 'killer instinct' - all of which have cost them dear in



ABOVE: Lloyd in full flow.

the past. To their credit, the players took heed of the halftime 'pep talk', and knuckled down in the second half, their superior fitness ensuring it was one-way traffic as the hapless Namibians were buried under yet another World Cup points avalanche.

Every one of those points, though, will prove absolutely vital for a burgeoning Welsh side that is growing in confidence as the tournament progresses.

This time, unlike 2007, Fiji should hold no fears as Gatland's men push on towards the quarter finals and a likely Celtic clash with Ireland.

## Corey's high-pressure kick clinches win for Athletic

WITH two of last year's youth team, fly-half Corey Butler and wing Mike Powell, making their first starts in the SWALEC League, supporters could have been forgiven for thinking that the youngsters were taking over, but this was

balanced out by veteran Paul Jones also making his first start of the season!

Conditions were ideal and a feast of uncompromising and determined rugby was served up for the fans in this six-try thriller.

Both sides were fiercely competitive at the

**Bridgend Athletic 28 v Narberth 27.**

**Report by Mark Davies.**

*Photographs by Glennsports.*

breakdown under the eagle eye of referee Mr Kevin Shorte, who was firm and consistent in his decision making all afternoon, and you can't ask for more than that!

The Athletic attacked from the kick off when hooker Simon Mustoe seized the ball and burst forward. Unfortunately, the ball was spilt as the support arrived.

Narberth then went through a spell of disciplined driving play that led to a penalty that outside-half Rhys Davies thumped over.

This was immediately cancelled out when Narberth infringed from the re-start and Corey Butler bisected the posts from 35 metres.

The Otters then took a three-point lead from a second penalty.

Wing Mike Powell made a strong run after a good line-out take by Callum McLeod, and No 8 Griff Davies drove on

before releasing the backs.

The ball was spilled but the home forwards were able to disrupt their opponents' scrum. James Olds spun the ball to his left, where Morris used Rhys Jones' dummy run to wrong-foot the defence and put wing Lloyd Pemberton in for the first try. Butler converted from out wide.

Mustoe made another strong run from the kick-off and Paul Jones was on hand to hack the ball up to the visitors' line but a good scramble managed to clear the ball to half-way.

Full back Rhys Jones was brave under the high ball but when an Ath player was penalised for not releasing, Narberth forced a line-out close to the home line, followed by an attacking scrum.

Waves of attackers were down the defence to create space on the right for wing Tom

Bonell to dive over in the corner for a converted try to take back the lead.

Butler sent over another penalty to level the scores before Narberth again established a foothold in Athletic territory.

They won clean line-out ball at the tail before moving the ball to the right. Centre and captain Steve Martin made a half-break and deftly off-loaded to put Bonell in for his second. Davies again goaled.

With time running out in the half, Butler reduced the deficit to four points with a monster effort from half-way.

The second half continued in the same exciting and uncompromising manner, with Narberth sending strike runners Gareth Bateman and Jim Kaumaitotya at the Athletic defensive line, while fly-half Davies kicked for position and

to pressurise the Athletic lineout while the Ewenny Road boys tried a more expansive approach through their back-line.

Three-quarters of the way into the game, the Athletic won clean line-out ball 30m out and Morris crashed into Narberth's defence.

Quick ball was recycled wide where replacement hooker Stuart Nation drifted half through a gap to hand on to Olds, who linked quickly with Rhys Jones to put Mike Powell in for a try that went unconverted - but it put the home team back in front by a solitary point.

Narberth were not going to lie down and minutes later created a classy try of their own. Centre Richard Davies delayed his pass to partner Steve Martin, who raced into space before releasing Bonell for his hat-trick. Again Davies converted.

As time ticked on the Athletic attacked, only to have to work hard to



ABOVE: Lloyd Pemberton races clear.

repel the counters of Narberth.

At last they used a penalty decision to kick to touch as Bonell received a yellow card for pulling back a chasing player. Even then the Ath were struggling to make head-way against their opponents but as time ran out a last desperate effort from a tap penalty by Tom Davies allowed Morris to float a long pass out to Powell for the wing to grab his second try in the corner.

Now it was all down to young Butler. He must have had ice in his

veins as he sent his touchline conversion straight through the uprights and took the relieved congratulations of his teammates.

Both sides can take credit for a fine display of rugby and the Athletic were delighted to maintain an unbeaten home record in the league stretching back to 2010.

Next week the Athletic travel to Cyncoed, Cardiff to take on the students of UWIC in what promises to be another cracker in Division West of the SWALEC league.



ABOVE: James Olds bursts through the Narberth defence.